December 9, 2009

Dear Commissioners and Councillors:

Re: The Million Dollar Pro-Zoo Lie

As I have stated, the propaganda of the pro-zoo folks borders on fear mongering. They have claimed that the animals will not be provided with better homes and animal "families" will be split up. Their attacks include unfair criticisms of park board commissioners faced with tough decisions due to hard economic times.

Now we have discovered "The Million Dollar Pro-zoo Lie". Since the Board meeting of November 25th a Pro-zoo Facebook group was falsely claiming that there was a \$1 million donation turned down by the Park Board. There should be no doubt that this lie angered a lot of people who wrote letters to you in protest. Heck, I would question it too if it was true.

Pro-zoo Facebook administrator, Tammara Flick-Parker also recently wrote: "Staff put forth great ideas but they're never realized. Why? Supposedly, no money. So, what about the \$1 million that was offered by a local philanthropist? (Vancouver Sun, Dec 7)

One of the many repeated claims that there was such a donation included petting zoo staffer, Elizabeth Wilkins, who wrote on their Facebook, "Yes, it's true! That same kind man tried to donate a million dollars are few years back and his generous donation was refused then too. Sickening." (Note: She also said "Peter, you are entitled to your own opinion, but you DO NOT need to post on a group in support of the Farmyard." They censor information to block any corrections in their propaganda.)

This is only part of their misleading campaign. Many thought the train was being shut down. And many anti Olympic folks tried to link that issue to the petting zoo. Their credibility is very questionable. So please put their letters in perspective with the knowledge that many of them were basing their zoo support on false information.

Thank you,

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