

Cleveland Metroparks commissioners yesterday agreed to spend \$40,860 for aerial photos, maps and studies of possible **flood** damage that could occur at the **zoo**, particularly at the \$27 million tropical RainForest, which has been built in a **flood** plain, or low area.

CT Consultants Inc. of Willoughby is to determine the risk of **Big Creek** flooding during 25-, 50- and 100-year periods. The fee is \$20,860.

The firm is to uncover the options available to provide **flood** protection for buildings in the **flood** plain, including the RainForest. The park board did not know the new tropical facility was in a **flood**-prone section of the **zoo** until Plain Dealer articles in January revealed the fact.

A subcontractor, Aerocon Photogrammetric Surveys Inc., is to take aerial photos of the entire **zoo** and adjacent Brookside Park since the **creek** flows through both. It also is to provide topographic maps to be used by CT Consultants Inc. and by the park district for future development. Aerocon's fee is \$20,000.

The precaution follows The PD's disclosure of major problems with the RainForest, including information that the former park district executive director grossly underestimated the cost at \$4 million, that the architect chosen to design it had no experience in planning such a sophisticated structure and was paid for work he could not, and did not, do.

Shortly after the articles appeared in January, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor John T. Corrigan ordered his staff to look into the possibility the architect, Thomas T.K. Zung, committed fraud in not fulfilling his contracts and into his assertion he paid for a trip to London for then Director Lou E. Tsipis and his wife.

The investigation, now in the hands of the county grand jury, was widened this month to include correspondence and other materials between Zung and Probate Judge Francis J. Talty, who appoints park board members and was instrumental in pushing for construction of the RainForest.

Although the commissioners had never announced the problem-plagued building would not be completed, parks board Vice President Fred R. Rzepka yesterday reported it would be, describing it as "a unique thing that will become a center in Cleveland for winter visitations."

At yesterday's meeting, Rzepka also asked M. Jane Christyson, director of marketing and visitor

services, to poll the public about paying extra to tour the RainForest when it opens in 1992.

Christyson said an exit poll of visitors would ask whether the **zoo** general admission charge should be raised or whether there should be a separate fee for the RainForest in order to recoup some of the cost of building and operating it.

In other business, Voinovich Cos., one of two finalists in a search for architects, was selected to design the clubhouse to be built at Sleepy Hollow Golf Course. For a fee of \$48,000, the firm is to plan the demolition of existing buildings and the construction of the clubhouse. Estimated cost of the building, its contents and site development, plus demolition, is \$676,400. Construction is to begin about the middle of September and be completed in a year.

The park district awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Lake Erie Nature & Science Center in the Huntington Reservation to formalize a wild animal rehabilitation project. The center's director, Larry Richardson, said that the staff had informally been giving care to injured or orphaned animals for many years; 550 of them being treated last year alone. The funding, to be matched by the center, will allow hiring an animal-care specialist, installing a hot line and improving treatment facilities.

CITATION (AGLC STYLE)

PAULINE THOMA; STAFF WRITER, 'Metroparks board gives OK for flood damage study at zoo', *Plain Dealer, The* (online), 14 Mar 1990
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