**2020 RES –254**

**AUTHORIZING RECLASSIFICATION OF VACANT JANITOR #3254 TO ZOO HORTICULTURE SPECIALIST**

The Henry Vilas Zoo spans approximately 28 acres. A majority of this acreage is greenspace, which surrounds guest walk ways, animal exhibits, perimeter fences, and botanical gardens. Its location is surrounded by Vilas Park, Lake Wingra and neighboring homes. As a result, The Henry Vilas Zoo needs a staff member specialized in caring for the vegetation. To this end, the Zoo is requesting to reclassify position #3254, currently classified as a Janitor, to a Zoo Horticulture Specialist.

This position will support the Henry Vilas Zoo's mission to providing exceptional animal care and wildlife conservation by performing skilled horticulture services for animal exhibits and landscapes around the zoo. This position will assist in improving the planning, design, and overall appearance of the entire Zoo.


The Zoo Horticulture Specialist will help to meet the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) standards by taking a direct role in exemplary animal care and welfare, and inspiring guest engagement through effective education and conservation. This will be accomplished by working closely with animal care staff creating a "browse" program to ensure animals requiring natural foliage have the essential nutrition available. This staff member will also be involved in leading volunteers and LTE's through natural planting, cultivating, and sustainment of landscapes throughout the Zoo.

Due to the increasing responsibilities and changes in the scope of the duties the Henry Vilas Zoo requests position #3254 be reclassified from Janitor (F9) to Zoo Horticulture Specialist (F14). This position is currently vacant and the Department of Administration—Employee Relations Division has recommended approval of this request.


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that position #3254 be reclassified from a Janitor (F9) to Zoo Horticulture Specialist (F14) as described above.


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that position #3254 be approved to fill.