

Budapest - Ivy Zoo Symposium, May 2012

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The first "Ivy Zoo" Symposium was conducted over 15 years ago at the lovely, old, Budapest Zoo in the Buda section of the City of Budapest. For years passionate zoo historians have waited for the second "Ivy Zoo" Symposium which finally came to pass. An "Ivy Zoo" is a zoo that is a century or more old. Directors from dozens of Ivy Zoos attended and presented on how their Ivy Zoo has been renovated to become a modern zoo with benefits. The old buildings are often "listed" by governments and can't be torn down, providing incentive and inspiration for innovation. Many of these were reviewed. Participants other than directors of historic zoos were zoo professionals, historians, journalists, architects, zoo designers and others working with zoos.

The first three sessions consisted of 30 minute presentations but the fourth session was a working session. Participants divided into three groups and toured three sections of the Budapest Zoo which needed renovation. Then they sat in working groups and prepared their designs and reports which were communicated to the larger group. Miklos had organized this same type of exercise in the first Symposium but at that time the theme had to do solely with the "big rock" which was constructed decades ago as a public works project. Miklos said both sessions were very helpful.

Patrons of the Symposium were the World Associations of Zoos and



Jorg and colleague design a way to renovate the front entrance



Working group observing needy spaces in the zoo which require renovation



Giant caterpillar chases the author in the almost completed science centre

Aquariums (WAZA), Jorg Junhold, Director of Leipzig Zoo (133 years old), Dagmar Schratter, Director of Schonbrunn Zoo (259 years) considered the oldest zoo in the world, David Field, Director of London Zoo, Jenny Gray, CEO of Zoos Victoria running the 149 years old Melbourne

Zoo, and Kevin Bell CEO of the 143 years old Lincoln Park Zoo. Dr. Miklos Persanyi, Director of Budapest Zoo and brain behind the first Ivy Zoo Symposium was the Host and Bea Golovanova of Congressline Ltd. was the organizer.

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