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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Contact: John Wright, Zoo Director

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#### SPRINGFIELD PARK DISTRICT AND HENSON ROBINSON ZOO TO CUT RIBBON FOR NEW PENGUIN BUILDING

[Springfield, IL] The Springfield Park District is excited to announce that we will cut the ribbon to the Henson Robinson Zoo's New Penguin Building on **Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am.**

The ceremony not only concludes two years of planning and a nine-month building project to the zoo's premier exhibit, but nearly triples the indoor space for the penguins.

Zoo guests viewing has increased with over twenty feet of glass to their indoor pool.

"Although the penguins will mostly be on exhibit, it gives animal care staff the option of bringing the group inside when outdoor conditions are not optimal." said Jeff Mitchell the Zoo's General Curator. "The increases space will allow us to house more penguins and have the ability to isolate individuals, if needed."

The building was designed by WDM Architects from Wichita, KS and built by CAD Construction from Tremont, IL. The Park District set aside \$400,000 in the 2016, 2017 & 2018 S&I Bond cycles to see this project to fruition. We are excited to announce not only is the project complete, but that construction for the house came in under budget at \$337,256.56. There is additional exhibit landscaping around the building, a dayroom mural and animal care amenities that will be funded with the remainder of the allocated funds.

"The building is themed as a sub-tropical beach shed, a theme that takes its cue from the South African Coast where these birds can be found in their natural habitat. This *shed* has been "abandoned" and taken over by the penguins!" said John Wright, Henson Robinson Zoo Director. "We hope that the community will see what we are doing for the future of the zoo and where we can go with their continued support."

Park Board President Leslie Sgro, "The Park Board remains dedicated to investing our financial and operational resources into our existing parks and facilities. Replacing the dated penguin building with a fun and modern new home for our penguins with a friendly public viewing area was important to the Board. I am excited and honored to unveil the new and penguin building to the members of local community."

For more information on the ceremony and project, please feel free to contact the Zoo at 217-585-1821 or email our Zoo Director, John Wright at [jwright@springfieldparks.org](mailto:jwright@springfieldparks.org)

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