



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Henry Vilas Zoo Commission

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

7:30 AM Virtual meeting. See below for additional instructions
on how to attend.

A. Call To Order

Others present: Ronda Schwetz, Joseph Darcangelo, Kristin Moala

A motion was made by ROSS that the Zoo Commission be called to order at 7:31am. The motion carried unanimously.

Present 7 - TAG EVERS, JEFFREY GUNDERSON, SARAH JUSTUS, MICHAEL PETERSEN, ANNE ROSS, Supervisor CECELY CASTILLO, and JONATHAN BECKER

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2022](#)
[MIN-335](#)

Attachments: [2022 MIN-335](#)

A motion was made by BECKER, seconded by JUSTUS, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote.

C. Action Items

None

D. Presentations

None

E. Reports to Committee

The Zoo is hoping to bring in a new camel soon. We are excited to share that news with the public once the transfer has been finalized. Bison have been hard to find. Zoonotic diseases in other populations are making it challenging. Penguins will be moving out to a different facility in the future until the Zoo can update that exhibit space. We don't have dates for the move yet but are working with AZA. Our AZA site visit last month found no animal welfare concerns. The Zoo's external investigation was going on at the same time that AZA was here and the Zoo made sure to include the judge in those talks with AZA. The external investigation interviews have been completed, we are just waiting for the final report. Discussion ensued.

[2022](#)
[RPT-415](#)

Attachments: [2022 RPT-415](#)

Ronda and Joseph gave an overview of the Zoo's 2023 requested budget. The total budget is just over 6 million. There are several capital projects included in the budget, the biggest one being the design and development of the Zoo's new giraffe exhibit. The one new line item is for DEAL. This will help us start to implement some of Keen's recommendations from our access and equity survey. The Zoo is aware that this is just a starting point but it is a way for us to show our commitment to DEAL issues moving forward. 2022 was the first year the zoo took over operations of the train and carousel and we are pleased with the revenue it's generating. Events are going well. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by BECKER, seconded by EVERS, that the Report be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Ronda talked about how the County has started training staff so that we can hold hybrid meetings. The Zoo recently got the equipment needed to hold hybrid meetings. The Commission needs to identify a vice chair for hybrid meetings. Consensus with the Commission is to continue to meet virtually for the immediate future. The next meeting will take place on November 1 at 7:30am.

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

None

I. Adjourn

A motion was made by BECKER, seconded by JUSTUS, that the Zoo Commission meeting be adjourned at 9:04am. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Kristin Moala, pending approval from the Zoo Commission.