

2 **AUTHORIZING TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR STAFF MEMBERS**
3 **FROM HENRY VILAS ZOO**

4 The Henry Vilas Zoo has been accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)
5 since 1976. Known as the “gold standard” in zoos and aquariums, requiring the highest
6 standards of animal care and welfare, veterinary practices, education, and conservation
7 commitment. AZA standards are updated every year, and zoos apply for accreditation every five
8 years; an extensive process concluding with a hearing at the annual AZA conference. In
9 addition, the annual conference is an important networking and educational opportunity for staff
10 to connect with their peers in the field, learning the most current best practices. The zoo is
11 required to send the Zoo Director and their representatives to the conference to attend a
12 hearing before the accreditation committee to receive accreditation. In addition to the Executive
13 Zoo Director, Ronda Schwetz, we are sending: Deputy Director, Joseph Darcangelo,
14 Conservation Education Curator, Jess Thompson, and General Curator, Beth Petersen from the
15 Zoo, as well as Chief of Staff, Carrie Springer from the County Executive’s office to represent in
16 Calgary, Canada in September. In addition, the zoo would like to send Conservation Education
17 Coordinator, Courtney Cordova who is presenting at the AZA conference and has obtained a
18 scholarship to attend.

19 As part of the zoo’s commitment to conservation, Henry Vilas Zoo is named as an Arctic
20 Ambassador Center with Polar Bears International, and has been invited to send Kristin Moala
21 to the 2024 Climate Alliance in Churchill, Canada. This program involves a group of only 20
22 Communications and Marketing professionals from zoos and aquariums around the country who
23 will work on ways to move the needle on polar bear conservation and climate change action
24 through conservation storytelling.

25 Separately, the zoo would also like to send Dr. Mary Thurber to the 2024 joint AAZV/EAZWV
26 (American Association of Zoo Veterinarians / European Association of Zoo and Wildlife
27 Veterinarians) conference which is being hosted this year in Toronto, Canada. This annual
28 conference brings together experts in the field of zoo and wildlife medicine from all over the
29 World to discuss and present the newest information. The conference includes workshops,
30 scientific posters, and numerous sessions on topics ranging from animal welfare, medicine and
31 surgery of a variety of taxon, conservation, anesthesia practices, diagnostic imaging,
32 emergency medicine, reproductive medicine, pharmacology, and more. Dr. Thurber has been
33 selected to present a poster on gibbon microbiomes with one of the former UW vet school zoo
34 residents, and sits on the AAZV Animal Health and Welfare Committee, which has its annual
35 meeting in person at the conference.

36 Travel outside the continental United States requires the approval of the County Board and the
37 County Executive. The Henry Vilas Zoo has sufficient funds in its 2024-budgeted Travel and
38 Training and Conference line for this travel.

39 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors and
40 County Executive do hereby approve and authorize Ronda Schwetz, Joseph Darcangelo, Jess
41 Thompson, Beth Petersen, Courtney Cordova, and Carrie Springer to attend the 2024 Annual
42 AZA Conference in Calgary, Kristin Moala to attend the 2024 PBI Climate Alliance conference in
43 Churchill, and Mary Thurber to attend the 2024 AAZV/EAZWV in Toronto, Canada in the fall of
44 2024.