

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

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

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

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

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

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that any employee authorized to travel outside the United States under this Resolution shall be aware of their obligations to adhere to Dane Co. Ord. 18.18(5), the alcohol prohibitions set forth in the Administrative Practices Manual, and the County’s Civil Service Work Rules.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any employee who shares a hotel room with another employee shall not be reimbursed for expenses associated with this travel.