



# 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?*

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Wednesday, December 10, 2025

8:00 AM

702 S. Randall Ave

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#### A Call To Order

A motion was made that the Zoo Commission meeting be called to order at 8:02am. The motion carried unanimously. Also present: Ronda Schwetz, Joseph Darcangelo, Kristin Moala, and Amanda Pedersen.

**Present** 5 - TAG EVERS, JEFFREY GUNDERSON, MICHAEL PETERSEN, ANNE ROSS, and ERIN WELSH

**Excused** 2 - SARAH JUSTUS, and JASMINE BANKS

#### B Consideration of Minutes

[2025](#)  
[MIN-445](#)

**Attachments:** [2025 MIN-445](#)

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

#### C. Action Items

1. [2025](#)  
[RES-239](#) AUTHORIZING THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN HENRY VILAS ZOO FOUNDATION, INC. AND DANE COUNTY FOR THE BENEFIT AND SUPPORT OF THE HENRY VILAS ZOO

**Sponsors:** ENGELBERGER and WELSH

**Attachments:** [2025 RES-239](#)  
[2025 RES-239 FISCAL NOTE](#)  
[2025 RES-239 CONTRACT #16003](#)

A motion was made by EVERS, and seconded by PETERSEN, that 2025 RES-239 be recommended for approval.

#### D. Presentations

None

**E. ZOO REPORT:****-Operational Updates****-Animal Updates****-Conservation/Education Updates****-Event/Marketing Updates**

Ronda Schwetz gave the following updates:

Animal: the arrival of Nora the Polar Bear is delayed. A HVZ goat is pregnant, she is expected to birth soon. The Animal Health Center acquired a new oxygen incubator.

Events: the first night of Zoo Lights was cancelled due to snow storm. Revenue may be negatively impacted.

Operations: the Seal Shade structure project begins 1/5. Artic Fox project will go back out to bid in a week or so.

Education: the Tundra Buggy project is still in progress. The GSAC has an article featuring HVZ's browse sustainability.

Party for the Planet - \$5,000 grant won for sensory garden/composting program.

**F. Future Meeting Items and Dates**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday January 6th, 2026 starting at 8am.

**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 EVERS, seconded by ROSS, that the Zoo Commission meeting be adjourned at 9:12am. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Pedersen, pending approval from the commission.