



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?

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

8:00 AM

702 S Randall Avenue

A. Call To Order

A motion was made that the Zoo Commission meeting be called to order at 8:03am. The motion carried unanimously.

Present 5 - JEFFREY GUNDERSON, SARAH JUSTUS, MICHAEL PETERSEN, JASMINE BANKS, and ERIN WELSH

Excused 2 - TAG EVERS, and ANNE ROSS

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2025](#)
[MIN-270](#)

Attachments: [2025 MIN-270](#)

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

C. Action Items

None

D. Presentations

None

E. Reports to Committee

Operational updates: Purple Cow success with over a ton of manure a week going to compost. On track to launch sales of compost at next year's Party for the Planet. Several projects will begin soon including: otter project, Koi pond clean/restoration, and seal shade. Artic Fox to be rebid/redesigned.

Budget updates will be presented at the next commission meeting.

Animal updates: Capybara winter housing to be in old Giraffe barn and two Herons have been relocated to an upper exhibit in the aviary.

Conservation/Education updates: AZA conference in Tampa coming up next week. Education Grant bi-lingual position has been filled and will assist in some upcoming events.

Event/Marketing updates: Hispanic Heritage, Boo at the Zoo with Day of the Dead crafts, Dr. Thurber recently attended the Zoo Vet Conference, Governor Evers visited for the Teen Program Advocacy Project, Zoo Lights time frame is being moved forward two weeks to mitigate declining sales due to weather, Zoo Run on 9/28 has phenomenal sales to date, 11/21 is Member Night, and 11/22 is opening night of Zoo Lights for the general public.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday October 21, 2025 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 WELSH, seconded by GUNDERSON, that the Zoo Commission meeting be adjourned at 8:53am. The motion carried unanimously.

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