



# 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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Tuesday, April 14, 2026

8:00 AM Hybrid Meeting: Attend in person at 702 S. Randall Ave;  
attend virtually via Zoom.

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See below for additional instructions on how to attend the meeting.

#### A. Call To Order

Others present: Janine Wachter, Joseph Darcangelo, Kristin Moala, Jess Thompson, Beth Petersen, Amanda Pedersen, Dr. Mary Thurber, Elizabeth Petersen, Heather Merewood, Erik Anderson, Supervisor Michelle Ritt, and Stephan Mac

**A motion was made by ROSS that the Zoo Commission meeting be called to order at 8:01am. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Present** 6 - TAG EVERS, JEFFREY GUNDERSON, SARAH JUSTUS, ANNE ROSS, JASMINE BANKS, and ERIN WELSH

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

[2025](#)  
[MIN-683](#)

**Attachments:** [2025 MIN-683](#)

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

#### C. Action Items

5. [2025 RES-358](#) AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE ARCTIC FOX EXHIBIT CONSTRUCTION AT HENRY VILAS ZOO, 702 S. RANDALL AVE., MADISON, WI

**Sponsors:** ENGELBERGER, FRIES and RYLANDER

**Attachments:** [2025 RES-358](#)  
[2025 RES-358 FISCAL NOTE](#)  
[2025 RES-358 CONTRACT #16176](#)

A motion was made by JUSTUS, seconded by EVERS, that the Resolution Requiring 2/3rds Vote be recommended for approval. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

E. Anderson, E. Petersen, and J. Wachter spoke on this agenda item.

M. Ritt registered and spoke in opposition on this item.

#### D. Presentations

#### E. Reports to Committee

##### Zoo Report:

##### -Operational Updates

##### -Animal Updates

##### -Conservation/Education Updates

##### -Event/Marketing Updates

J. Wachter gave Operational updates: Guest Services Coordinator resignation, zoo-wide HVAC project, and volunteer opportunities. J. Wachter and J. Darcangelo gave update on goal setting and budget work. Dr. M. Thurber and E. Petersen gave Animal updates: QOL care, new sloth arrival, seasonal animal moves and acquisitions. H. Merewood gave Conservation/Education updates: Party for the Planet event, breakfast with critters, education programs. K. Moala gave Event/Marketing updates: spring blood drive, SSA Mother's Day brunch.

#### F. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday May 12th at 8am.

#### G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

#### H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

#### I. Adjourn

A motion was made by EVERS, seconded by JUSTUS, that the Zoo Commission meeting be adjourned at 9:12am. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Pedersen, pending approval from the Zoo Commission.