



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, January 8, 2019

7:00 AM

702 South Randall Avenue, Madison WI

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A. Call To Order

Also present: Alison Prange, Ronda Schwetz, Joseph Darcangelo, Erik Anderson

Tom Hanson attended in place of Chris Henderson

Meeting called to order by Anne Ross at 7:05am in Zoo Administration Office

Present 4 - ANNE ROSS, Supervisor CHUCK ERICKSON, JEFFREY GUNDERSON, and JONATHAN BECKER

Absent 3 - SARAH JUSTUS, CHRIS HENDERSON, and ALLEN ARNSTEN

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2018](#) Minutes of the 11/13/18 Zoo Commission
[MIN-339](#)

Attachments: [2018 Zoo Commission Minutes 11 13 18](#)

A motion was made by BECKER, seconded by GUNDERSON, that the minutes be approved as amended. The motion carried by a voice vote.

C. Action Items

None

D. Presentations

None

E. Reports to Committee

Zoo Director Report

Ronda Schwetz, Executive Director of the Zoo reported Zoo updates: Animal updates included update on denning behavior of female polar bear, Berit. Plan to let her wake up and then introduce to male polar bear, Nuniq. Two penguin chicks hatched and are doing very well. Zookeeper Gary Hartlage is in Africa helping penguin conservation efforts of nonprofit SANCOOB. Vet Tech Angie Sutton and Volunteer Coordinator, Nikki from the Society spent 3 weeks in Vietnam helping a nonprofit set up their animal hospital to help wildlife in that region. Reviewed 2018 budget and talked about 2019 planned capital projects to replace the Herpetarium and Aviary roofs. Went over animal welfare improvements that were mentioned in the accreditation process and talked about the upgrades to their exhibits and giving them more choices. New Deputy Director, Joseph Darchangelo introduced himself and started in November. General Curator position is open but in recruitment.

Zoo Society Report

Alison Prange, President of the Zoo Society reported: Mentioned that the 2018 books were closing that week. Even though grounds revenue was down they had a good fundraising year. Visitation was also down presumably from the wet weather in the summer. Selected Baker Tilly as their new accounting firm. Tom Hanson will be taking over as the Board Chair in January, 2019. Zoolights was very successful at over 30,000 visitors. Looking at ways to drive guests to the zoo in the off seasons.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at 7:00am in the Zoo Administration Building.

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

I. Adjourn

Minutes taken on, January 8, 2018 by Ronda Schwetz and subject to final approval by Zoo Commission.