



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, June 6, 2023

7:30 AM

Henry Vilas Zoo, 702 S. Randall, Madison, WI 53715

Attend in person at Henry Vila Zoo. Only the north gate at the corner of Drake St and Randall Ave will be open

A. Call To Order

Others Present: Commissioner Tag Evers, Commissioner Jasmine Banks, Ronda Schwetz, Joseph Darcangelo, Kristin Moala

A motion was made by ROSS that the Zoo Commission meeting be called to order at 7:34am. The motion carried unanimously.

Present 5 - JEFFREY GUNDERSON, SARAH JUSTUS, MICHAEL PETERSEN, ANNE ROSS, and Supervisor CECELY CASTILLO

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2023](#)
[MIN-137](#)

Attachments: [2023 MIN-137](#)

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

C. Action Items

None

D. Presentations

None

E. Reports to Committee*Zoo Report:*

Staffing update - hired a new Zoo Manager who was promoted from Lead Keeper, which means we have the opportunity to offer a keeper a lead position. Hired a vet as an LTE staffer for the remainder of the year once the UW Vet School contract ends. That will allow us to have uninterrupted full time vet coverage for the remainder of the year. We will be asking for a FTE vet position in the 2024 budget. We are still in the process of hiring a new vet tech. Other positions that we are asking for in the 2024 budget include a .6 zoo attendant and a .6 zoo keeper. Those positions will help us fill scheduling gaps and allow new staff to gain experience at an AZA accredited facility.

DEAI update - Our Pride event - Drag Me To The Zoo - is officially sold out. We are also hosting our first Drag Story Time happening on the same day. We had to cap registration for that event due to capacity issues. Are already planning on holding a second story time next year. We are starting dementia training for staff and volunteers. Working with the Dane County Aging and Disability Resource Center to help facilitate that. We recently started working with OccuPaws, a non-profit organization that helps train service animals. Our Family Fun Days are bringing in on average 10% more guests each month than a normal Sunday. Our ZAP (Zoo Aftercare Program) has their graduation on Friday and we are transitioning into summer programming next week.

Animals - we have a camel dental procedure coming up. Keepers have been working with our camel for several months to get her trained to receive her injection. We have found a camel and two bison and are working on transportation and permitting to get them here. We do not have shipping dates yet. Our otter, Lily, will be leaving for another AZA institution, which is very exciting. We have an owl, baby goats, and turkeys in quarantine at the Zoo right now and expect them to be visible to the public in about three weeks.

Operations - re-opening our North American prairie exhibit with updated signage and a new bison statue on June 23. Our giraffe building is moving along and getting closer to construction documents. Working with a consultant to create a zoo specific employee handbook.

Finance - the Commission went over the YTD budget. Discussion ensued.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

The next Zoo Commission meeting will take place in person at Henry Vilas Zoo on July 11, 2023 at 7:30am.

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 CASTILLO, seconded by JUSTUS, that the Zoo Commission meeting be adjourned at 8:32am. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Kristin Moala, pending approval by the Zoo Commission.