



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, May 9, 2023

7:30 AM Henry Vilas Zoo, 702 S. Randall Ave. Madison, WI 53715

Only the north gate at the corner of Drake St and Randall Ave will be open

A. Call To Order

Others present: Alder Tag Evers, Jasmine Banks, Ronda Schwetz, Joseph Darcangelo, Kristin Moala

Anne Ross called the meeting to order at 7:33am.

Present 4 - JEFFREY GUNDERSON, MICHAEL PETERSEN, ANNE ROSS, and Supervisor
CECELY CASTILLO

Excused 1 - SARAH JUSTUS

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2023](#)
[MIN-078](#)

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 14, 2023 HENRY VILAS ZOO COMMISSION

Attachments: [2023 MIN-078](#)

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

C. Action Items

None

D. Presentations

Dr. Petersen gave a history of the veterinary services provided at Henry Vilas Zoo. He started as the primary vet in 1989. Animal care was done out of the administration building before the Animal Health Center (AHC) was built. There was no designated surgery room prior to the AHC. When Ronda became the director she prioritized the AHC. Many zoos provided input for that space, and that helped us design quarantine areas, an x-ray room, a viewing window for guests, and a classroom for education programs. The AHC started a transformation for the zoo and showed the public we could build.

Ronda Schwetz talked about how after Dr. Petersen retired in 2019, with a recommendation from AZA, we began a 5-year contract with UW for veterinary services. That contract ends this year and with several people retiring from the UW they no longer have the same capacity. We are moving forward with hiring a full time vet instead of continuing contract services. We are fortunate to have hired on the of the UW vets who was already working at the zoo and she will start the day after the contract ends so we will have seamless veterinary coverage.

E. Reports to Committee

Ronda Schwetz - we have filled several of the open positions we had including a zoo manager and janitor. We also just hired a LTE education outreach position that will help with some of our off site programs. We are working with the employee group to create a permanent .6 zoo keeper position to help people entering the field get AZA experience. The Zoo already has a county board member working on a resolution for that position.

Ronda gave an animal update and talked about new signs being installed in the North American prairie exhibit this summer.

Joseph Darcangelo went over the number of visitors the zoo has welcomed this year, how sales in the grille and gift shop are doing, and gave an update about upcoming corporate rentals.

Discussion ensued.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

The next commission meeting will be held in person at the Zoo on Tuesday, June 6th 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 ROSS, that the Zoo Commission be adjourned at 9:05am. The motion carried unanimously.

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