

**Dane County**  
**Henry Vilas Zoo Commission**  
**Minutes**

Zoo Administration Building  
7:00am, July 19, 2016

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Members present: Jonathan Becker, Andrea Brunsell-Parks, Chuck Erickson, Sara Eskrich and Jeff Gunderson

Also present: Alison Prange (via phone), Jeff Halter and Ronda Schwetz

Members absent: Anne Ross and Karrie Julian

Meeting called to order by Chuck Erickson at 7:05 a.m. in Zoo Administration Office.

Motion by Jeff Gunderson and seconded by Jonathan Becker to approve minutes from the previous meeting for May 3, 2016. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Action items: Commissioners reviewed the contract awarded for the Henry Vilas Zoo administration building reroofing and recladding project to commence in August. Discussion of need and inclusion of sustainability features such as solar panels on the roof ensued. Motion to approve project by Sara Eskrich, seconded by Andrea Brunsell-Parks was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Jonathan Becker reported out on a zoo visit recently where Arctic Passage animals and other zoo exhibits were enthusiastically received by his guests.

Ronda Schwetz reported Zoo updates: There is work on Arctic Passage's filtration system being done to help with water clarity issues has been largely completed and is in the testing phase at this point. Other upcoming capital improvements include renovating the Zoo Administration building, redoing the playground flooring, upgrading the lower restrooms in fall and preparation for the 2017 budget. Items in capital requests include a new HVAC air conditioning system for the Primate Building which failed in the lobby and back animal areas in June, replacement of the Rhino Building furnaces which are over 40 years old and replacement of the Tiger Viewing structure area which is rotting out. Other requests include a general zoo improvement request for emergencies and security camera enhancement equipment. The 2017 operating budget requests were for contractual obligations for our individual line items.

Alison Prange, Executive Director of the Zoo reported: Attendance was down in June by 50% but was strong and at the highest numbers ever for January, February and March. The Friends are fully staffed for the first time thanks in part to a very successful Urban League job fair. The Friends received a tourism grant from the state to promote the upcoming Zoo Lights this winter. The gift shop has been completely renovated and will now be named, "Vilas Outfitters". Updates were given on the progress on the Wisconsin Heritage Exhibit, events such as "Zoovies" and the new Zoo Lights to debut in winter.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 20 at 7:00am in the Zoo Administration Building.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Sara Eskrich at 8:00am.

Minutes taken on July 19, 2016 by Ronda Schwetz and subject to final approval by Zoo Commission.