



Dane County

Minutes - Draft

Henry Vilas Zoo Commission

Tuesday, November 1, 2016

7:00 AM

Zoo Admin Building 702 South Randall Ave

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A. Call To Order

Zoo Staff - Ronda Schwetz and Jeff Stafford

Zoo Society Staff - Alison Prange

Erickson called the meeting to order at 7:05am.

Present 7 - ANDREA BRUNSELL PARKS, Supervisor CHUCK ERICKSON, JEFFREY GUNDERSON, JONATHAN BECKER, SARA ESKRICH, KARRIE JULIAN, and SARAH JUSTUS

Absent 1 - ANNE ROSS

B. Consideration of Minutes

A motion was made by Eskrich, seconded by Gunderson, that the minutes be approved. The motion carried by voice vote.

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C. Action Items

D. Presentations

E. Reports to Committee

1 Zoo Director Report

Ronda Schwetz reported Zoo updates: Animal updates include introductions of an female orangutan to the existing male/female group, a female tiger and prairie dog shipments and polar bear switches between three AZA institutions to facilitate population management which resulted in the male polar bear Sakari to move to Buffalo and for our zoo to receive 18 year old female polar bear, Bearit from Cincinnati Zoo. The Wisconsin Heritage exhibit opened in October and was well received. The exhibit highlights Wisconsin history, especially how we became known as the badger state, the zoo's relationship with the UW and the conservation success story of sandhill cranes. Capital project updates included design of the lower restroom project, continued work on next steps for the playground and other small internal projects. Jeff Halter will be leading a trip to Churchill, Canada to tour people to see polar bears in the Arctic tundra and Ronda Schwetz will be leading a trip of AZA experts to help train Zoo Melaka staff and donate medical supplies to orangutan rehabilitation centres in Borneo.

2 Zoo Society Report

Alison Prange, Executive Director of the Zoo reported: The Wisconsin Heritage exhibit opening was a huge success and there were just a few punch list items to finish up. Sales of badger and crane merchandise are available in the gift shop. The Glacier Grille on grounds sales are good and per capita spending is up for food and gifts from last year. The train and carousel will run fulltime until October 21st and the goat yard will also close then. Preparing for Halloween at the zoo that averages between 14,000-15,000 visitors in that day. Preparing for the first ever Zoo Lights with member night on November 22nd and opening the day after Thanksgiving through New Year's Day. It will be \$7/person and the carousel and Glacier Grille will be open and Santa will be there too with activities each night. General public will be open Thursday – Sunday nights and there will be a possibility to rent it on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. Pepsi will print 2,000,000 cans with a \$1 off coupon. There will be a non-profit night as well.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 3rd at 7:00am in the Zoo Administration Building.

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 Supervisor Becker that the meeting be adjourned at 8:00am. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ronda Schwetz and subject to final approval by the Zoo Commission.