

**Dane County
Henry Vilas Zoo Commission
Minutes**

Zoo Administration Building
7:00am, July10, 2018

Members present: Jonathan Becker, Chuck Erickson, Sara Eskrich, Sarah Justice, Jeff Gunderson and Anne Ross

Also present: Alison Prange, Jeff Halter and Ronda Schwetz, Tom

Members Absent: Chris Henderson

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

Motion by Sara Eskrich Sarah Justice and seconded by to approve amended minutes from the previous meeting for March 6, 2018. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Reports to Committee:

Ronda Schwetz, Executive Director of the Zoo reported Zoo updates: Animal updates include birth of five black and white ruffed lemurs to two sisters which is a huge success for the black and white lemur SSP, arrival of a male tiger which will be seen on the front exhibit (the lion and tiger exhibits were switched for geographical consistency), acquisitions of several other animals including meerkats, geckos, and several new birds. Other updated included preparation for the upcoming Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accreditation inspection in July, facilities updates including construction progress on the lower restrooms, asphalt and rhino barns and education updates including the sold out zoo camps, popular sleepovers and other successful programs.

Alison Prange, President of the Zoo Society reported: the 2017 Zoo Society audit was completed. April was a poor weather month which affected attendance. Staffing for concessions and the gift shop is going well. Work on the Government Affairs committee includes a group of AZA members meeting in Washington DC to talk with and educate representatives about all of the great conservation contributions AZA members are making. Further reports include the start of the busy season for events, with member appreciation night kicking it off in May, Rendezoo in June and many other great events. The successful first Save Our Species (SOS) luncheon in February was very well received and plans for next year have started. The Visitor Center grand opening will be on May 22nd and ties in nicely with the completed strategic plan which is focusing on guest services, conservation and animal welfare.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at 7:00am in the Zoo Administration Building.

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

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