



# Dane County

## Minutes - Draft

### Henry Vilas Zoo Commission

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Tuesday, January 16, 2018

7:00 AM

Zoo Admin Building 702 South Randall Ave

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#### Zoo Admin Building 702 South Randall Ave

#### A. Call To Order

- Present** 5 - Supervisor CHUCK ERICKSON, JEFFREY GUNDERSON, JONATHAN BECKER, SARA ESKRICH, and SARAH JUSTUS
- Absent** 2 - ANNE ROSS, and CHRIS HENDERSON

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

This matter was approved.

[2017](#)  
[MIN-439](#)

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#### C. Action Items

#### D. Presentations

*None*

#### E. Reports to Committee

## *Zoo Director Report*

*Ronda Schwetz, Executive Director of the Zoo reported Zoo updates: Animal updates included female polar bear, "Berit" was denned up for the season and one of 5 polar bears that received AI. Unfortunately no cubs were conceived but the research being done is incredibly helpful for learning about polar bear reproduction both in captivity and the wild. The male black and white ruffed lemur was introduced to the two females and breeding did occur. The tiger and the lion yards were switched to provide enrichment, as well as geographic location. Construction has started on the zoo's lower restrooms by Findorff and is expected to be complete at the end of March. Other updates included that Ronda Schwetz traveled to Borneo and participated in releasing five orangutans back into the primary rainforest with the Borneo Survival Foundation staff. This conservation partnership is being further developed to help connect AZA institutions with BOS both in Borneo and the US. Other updates also included preparation for the 2018 Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accreditation which is done every five years and only the top 10% of zoos and aquariums meet this standard. Henry Vilas Zoo has been accredited by AZA for over 25 years. The application is due March 1, 2018 and an on-site inspection will occur in late spring or early summer.*

## *Zoo Society Report*

*Alison Prange, President of the Zoo Society reported: the 2017 unaudited budget was very strong with record sales of food and beverage. Zoo lights grew from 25,000 people in 2016 to over 30,000 in its second year. Additions included music and a holiday market that were well received. The final draft of the strategic plan is ready to be finalized and included helping with accreditation documents and process. There will also be a new branding and website as part of the plan. The visitor center has completed renovations for office space and will include someone available to talk to guests seven days a week. Part of the plan includes starting a conservation series with the first annual Save Our Species lunch kicking off on February 6, 2018 showcasing shark conservation issues and strategies for conservation.*

## **F. Future Meeting Items and Dates**

*Tuesday, March 6, 2018 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**

*Minutes taken on January 16, 2018 by Ronda Schwetz and subject to final approval by Zoo Commission.*