



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, November 1, 2022

7:30 AM

Virtual

See below for additional instructions on how to attend the meeting

A. Call To Order

Others present: Ronda Schwetz, Joseph Darcangelo, Kristin Moala

A motion was made by ROSS that the Zoo Commission meeting be called to order.

Present 6 - TAG EVERS, JEFFREY GUNDERSON, MICHAEL PETERSEN, ANNE ROSS,
Supervisor CECELY CASTILLO, and JONATHAN BECKER
Excused 1 - SARAH JUSTUS

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2022](#)
[MIN-387](#)

Attachments: [2022 MIN-387](#)

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

None

E. Reports to Committee

SCHWETZ talked about upgrades to our prairie exhibit. A donor reached out to us and is funding new educational signage for the North American Prairie space. Signage will explain how animals handle changing seasons. We hope to have this completed in the next year. Left over money will go towards our new giraffe exhibit. A new life-sized bison sculpture made out of recycled tires will be a focal point. The Zoo feels the bison sculpture will draw people to the zoo. Our horticulturist is working on restoring prairie grasses/plants to the area surrounding the bison exhibit. We are working with Ho-Chunk Nation to help with our interpretive signs as well.

The Zoo received the more design drawings for the giraffe exhibit. We are currently working with public works to make sure all the design elements work.

The 2023 budget process is still moving along. The zoo has two amendments sponsored by Supervisor Castillo. One will increase our training budget by \$10,000, which compliments a recommendation that came out of the recent zoo report from Judge Bailey-Rhin. The second amendment gives additional funds for us to replace our seal shade structure so that it can handle Wisconsin winters. The Zoo Commission expressed support for both amendments.

MOALA updated the commission on events at the Zoo. Boo at the Zoo welcomed just over 11,000 visitors to the Zoo and was a very successful event. The Zoo's upcoming holiday events include Zoo Lights, which begins the day after Thanksgiving. The Zoo is bringing back Brew Lights, a one night only 21+ event that includes the lights and brings local breweries on ground. The Zoo is also hosting a free night of Zoo Lights again this year for children dealing with serious health conditions.

SCHWETZ gave an update on the education grant from Woodland Park Zoo that will help the Zoo create an interpretive master plan. The master plan focuses on educational pieces in the zoo. It's a 2-year grant and we are in the first year. 2023 will be when we can see the whole plan and when we will see the first new signs installed on grounds.

DARCANGELO gave an update on the Zoo's outreach to our neighbors. He has coordinated four meetings with the neighbors this year and has another one scheduled for next week.

[2022
RPT-105](#)

Attachments: [2022 RPT-105](#)

This report was approved.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

SCHWETZ went over the expectations from the county as we move toward hybrid meetings. The County is not requiring hybrid meetings yet but if we do switch to hybrid we need a vice chair. Ronda will get guidance from the County on how the commission appoints a vice chair, which is needed for hybrid meetings. Consensus from the commission was to stick to virtual for the time being.

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 BECKER, seconded by EVERS, that the Zoo Commission meeting be adjourned at 8:29am. The motion carried unanimously.

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