



Dane County

Minutes - Final

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?

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

7:30 AM

Henry Vilas Zoo: 702 S. Randall Ave, Madison, WI

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A. Call To Order

Others present: Ronda Schwetz, Joseph Darcangelo, Kristin Moala

This meeting was called to order by ANNE ROSS at 7:32am.

Present 5 - JEFFREY GUNDERSON, SARAH JUSTUS, MICHAEL PETERSEN, ANNE ROSS,
and Supervisor CECELY CASTILLO

Excused 1 - TAG EVERS

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2022](#)
[MIN-489](#)

Attachments: [2022 MIN-489](#)

A motion was made by JUSTUS, seconded by PETERSEN, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote.

C. Action Items

Election of the Vice-Chair

A motion was made by GUNDERSON, seconded by CASTILLO, that JUSTUS be elected Vice Chair. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Presentations

None

E. Reports to Committee

Zoo report given by Ronda Schwetz. Ronda began with a recap of Zoo Lights. Two nights were canceled because of weather this year, but the Zoo still hit revenue goals for the event. In addition to ticket sales, over \$15,000 was raised for scholarships during Zoo Lights ticket sales. This was the second year the Zoo officially held Dream Lights, which allows children dealing with life threatening illnesses and their families to come enjoy Zoo Lights in a safe and calm environment.

In 2022, the Zoo's membership program raised over \$36,000 for wildlife conservation. The membership program will be changing for 2023 to make registration for education programs more equitable.

The education team is entering phase two of their interpretive master plan and new signs will start going up in 2023. The herpetarium and primate building will be the first buildings to get new signage.

The Zoo has already begun implementing some of the DEI recommendations to come out of the internal and external review of the Zoo. Staff training for all staff started and the next session is scheduled for February. Manager training has also begun.

The Zoo continues to move forward with development and design for the new giraffe exhibit. There will be another presentation that the commission will be invited to attend in February.

Discussion ensued.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

The next Zoo Commission meeting will be held in person at the Zoo on Tuesday, February 7th at 7:30am.

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

The Commission acknowledged commissioner Jonathan Becker for his service. Jonathan hit his term limit in 2022 after 12 years of service. The Commission commended Jonathan for his service.

I. Adjourn

A motion was made by JUSTUS, seconded by PETERSEN, that the Zoo Commission be adjourned at 8:36am. The motion carried unanimously.

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