



# 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?*

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Tuesday, September 3, 2024

8:00 AM Henry Vilas Zoo, 702 S. Randall Ave., Madison, WI 53715

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**This meeting will be held in person at Henry Vilas Zoo located at 702 S. Randall Ave,  
Madison, WI 53715**

#### A. Call To Order

*Others present: Ronda Schwetz, Joseph Darcangelo, Kristin Moala, Courtney Cordova,  
Jess Thompson*

**A motion was made by ROSS that the Zoo Commission meeting be called to  
order at 8:03am.**

**Present** 7 - TAG EVERS, JEFFREY GUNDERSON, SARAH JUSTUS, MICHAEL  
PETERSEN, ANNE ROSS, JASMINE BANKS, and ERIN WELSH

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

#### C. Action Items

2. [2024  
RES-099](#) AWARD OF CONTRACT TO JBM PATROL AND PROTECTION FOR  
SECURITY GUARD SERVICE

**Sponsors:** ENGELBERGER

**Attachments:** [2024 RES-099](#)

[2024 RES-099 Fiscal Note](#)

[2024 RES-099 CONTRACT #15543](#)

*Joseph Darcangelo talked about this resolution. The zoo currently has overnight security year-round. This resolution would also give the zoo a daytime security person on grounds between Memorial Day and Labor Day, which is when the zoo sees the majority of its guests. Having a security person on grounds will help with many of the guest services issues the zoo deals with all summer including reuniting children with parents, dealing with any disruptive guests, and helping guests with disabilities. Discussion ensued.*

**A motion was made by JUSTUS, seconded by EVERS, that the Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote.**

#### D. Presentations

[2024](#)  
[PRES-064](#)

**Attachments:** [2024 PRES-064](#)

*Joseph Darcangelo updated the Commission on the proposed 2025 zoo budget that was sent to the County Executive's office. The zoo makes up less than 1% of the County's total budget. There were minimal changes this year. The concession's budget was adjusted to separate out the operations of the train and carousel, which the Zoo currently operates. There are no new capital requests, only ongoing requests needed to maintain our grounds and animal health center.*

*There are two new positions in the budget for the zoo, a new FTE education outreach coordinator, which will be paid for by a slight increase in zoo camp registrations, and a water quality analyst. The zoo currently contracts water quality services but that limits on-ground help to four times per year. Having a FTE position on grounds will improve all exhibits with water including seals, bears, flamingos, Aviary, and the Herpetarium. The analyst position would work directly with the zoo veterinarian and be able to assist with animal welfare as well.*

*Discussion ensued.*

**A motion was made by ROSS, seconded by JUSTUS, that the Presentation be placed on file. The motion carried by a voice vote.**

## **E. Reports to Committee**

*Ronda Schwetz updated the Commission on animal acquisitions and upcoming departures, as well as recent events at the Zoo.*

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

*The next meeting will be held on October 1st at 8am in person at the Zoo.*

## **G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda**

*None*

## **H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law**

*Courtney Cordova and Jess Thompson spoke to the Commission about 20224 RES-119, a resolution that will allow the Zoo to accept grant money that will help us evaluate the effectiveness of our interpretive master plan. The grant funds will be used to hire a LTE position who will be responsible for evaluating and training staff on conservation action interpretation.*

## **I. Adjourn**

**A motion was made by EVERS, seconded by JUSTUS, that the Zoo Commission meeting be adjourned at 9:22am. The motion carried unanimously.**

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