



# Dane County

## Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

### Henry Vilas Zoo Commission

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Tuesday, September 20, 2016

7:00 AM Zoo Administration Building - 702 South Randall Ave.

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**Zoo Administration Building - 702 South Randall Ave.**

#### A. Call To Order

*Zoo Staff - Ronda Schwetz, Jeff Halter*  
*Zoo Society Staff - Alison Prange*

**Erickson called the meeting to order at 7:05**

**Present** 6 - ANNE ROSS, Supervisor CHUCK ERICKSON, VALERIE BAILEY-RIHN,  
JEFFREY GUNDERSON, JONATHAN BECKER, and KARRIE JULIAN

**Absent** 2 - ANDREA BRUNSELL PARKS, and SARA ESKRICH

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

1. [2016](#) Zoo Commission Meeting Minutes - July 19, 2016  
[MIN-254](#)

**Attachments:** [2016 Zoo Commission Minutes 07 19 16](#)

**A motion was made by BECKER, seconded by JULIAN, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote.**

#### C. Action Items

1. Budget

*Commissioners reviewed the 2017 zoo budget submission. Requests for operations included adjusting line items to correct contracted amounts for vendors and a request to increase the membership line item to reflect actual costs. Total operation increase requested was less than 0.5% of operational budget. Capital requests included zoo improvements, replacements of the primate building HVAC and rhino barn heater/renovations. Additional capital requests included adding cameras and radio repeaters for safety and replacement of worn out cat viewing shelters*

**A motion was made by BECKER, seconded by GUNDERSON, that the proposed budget be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote.**

#### D. Presentations

*None*

**E. Reports to Committee**

None

**F. Future Meeting Items and Dates**

*The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 1st at 7:00am in the Zoo Administration Building*

**1. Zoo Director Report**

*Ronda Schwetz reported Zoo updates: Current capital improvements include renovating the Zoo Administration building, replacing the lower restrooms and preparation for the 2017 budget. The Wisconsin Heritage Exhibit is expected to be complete early October. Animal updates include shipments of an orangutan, a tiger and polar bear switches between three AZA institutions to facilitate population management. The zoo hosted its first ever professional workshop – the Orangutan SSP Husbandry Workshop (10th year) and first ever husbandry course with over 100 attendees globally including the CEO and veterinarians of Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation and veterinarian from the Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Foundation. This workshop brought world orangutan experts from every discipline together including zoos, orangutan rehabilitation centers, researchers and field conservationists.*

**2. Friends of the Zoo Report**

*Alison Prange, Executive Director of the Zoo reported: Attendance was lower in July and August again from last year but because of highest numbers ever for January, February and March finances were still good. The Friends received a tourism grant from the state to promote the upcoming Zoo Lights this winter and are starting to gear up on rollout to the public. Updates were given on the grand opening events for Wisconsin Heritage Exhibit with a donor/media event on Friday, October 14th and grand opening on Saturday, October 15th which is when the UW Badgers host the Iowa Hawkeyes. The Friends have commissioned the firm Zoo Advisors to help with strategic planning along with zoo staff and around the new master plan. The annual giving campaign will kick off soon with the theme, "Feeding the Zoo".*

**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 Supervisor CHUCK ERICKSON that this the meeting be adjourned at 8:00. The motion carried unanimously.**

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Ronda Schwetz and subject to final approval by the Zoo Commission.*