



# 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, November 10, 2020

7:30 AM The November 10, 2020 Henry Vilas Zoo Commission meeting is being held virtually. The public can access the meeting with the Zoom application or by telephone.

To join the meeting in Zoom, click the following link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86826763632>

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To join the meeting by phone, dial-in using one of the following three toll-free phone numbers:

1-833-548-0276

1-833-548-0282

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When prompted, enter the following Webinar ID: 868 2676 3632

If you want to submit a written comment for this meeting, or send handouts for board members, please send them to: [menard.lindsay@countyofdane.com](mailto:menard.lindsay@countyofdane.com)

#### A. Call To Order

*Others present: Ronda Schwetz, Joseph Darcangelo, Kristin Moala*

The meeting was called to order by ANNE ROSS at 7:41am.

**Present** 7 - JONATHAN BECKER, Supervisor CHUCK ERICKSON, TAG EVERS, JEFFREY GUNDERSON, SARAH JUSTUS, MICHAEL PETERSEN, and ANNE ROSS

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

1. [2020 MIN-283](#) MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 6, 2020 HENRY VILAS ZOO COMMISSION

**Attachments:** [2020 MIN-283](#)

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

#### C. Action Items

- 1. [2020 RES-273](#) 2020 RES-273 ADDENDUM TO THE AFFIRM CONTRACT WITH THE HENRY VILAS ZOO

**Sponsors:** ERICKSON, HATCHER and RIPP

**Attachments:** [2020 RES 273](#)  
[2020 RES-273 Fiscal Note](#)  
[2020 RES-273 CONTRACT #14047B](#)

*GUNDERSON asked about why we have to sign on for five years. SCHWETZ said it was a recommendation from our purchasing department. The Zoo can leave, we just don't have to get a resolution every year if we decide to stay with them.*

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

- 2. [2020 RES-254](#) AUTHORIZING RECLASSIFICATION OF VACANT JANITOR #3254 TO ZOO HORTICULTURE SPECIALIST

**Sponsors:** ERICKSON and JOERS

**Attachments:** [2020 RES-254](#)  
[2020 RES-254 Fiscal Note](#)

*SCHWETZ explained this is the second janitor position, just turned on recently. Not a normal year, but we have learned that our janitor position would be better served as a horticulturist who can help with AZA accreditation requirements regarding toxic plants and browse for animals to better assist animal keepers. The position will still have janitorial duties. Toxic plants/browse focus is something the zoo does not currently have a dedicated position for.*

**A motion was made by ERICKSON, seconded by JUSTUS, that the Resolution be postponed indefinitely. The motion carried by a voice vote.**

#### D. Presentations

None

#### E. Reports to Committee

**Zoo Report**

DARCANGELO discussed revenue to date comparing 2019 to 2020. Compared June-October donation tube revenue. (We reopened in June) We are actually up .7% over that time frame. Attendance is understandably down 46% over the same time period due to COVID and only one entrance. Year to date attendance is down over 59%. YTD revenue is down 16% but donations are up almost 3%, which really shows how much the community supports us.

ROSS asked when the society officially stopped operating. SCHWETZ answered March 31, 2019.

ROSS asked if we have any idea how this compares to 2018. DARCANGELO replied that we don't have former society data so comparisons are difficult.

DARCANGELO talked about our Centerplate deficit due to our closure because of COVID and explained that it has been reduced significantly from increased donations and revenue since we reopened. As of right now it's under \$20k and we hope to completely eliminate it by the end of the year. If we break even this year, that will be a huge success considering this year.

ERICKSON wants to talk to Chuck Hicklin about the contract to talk about COVID impacts to this year. SCHWETZ said that 2021 is the year we will send out a RFP for concession. GUNDERSON asked if the deficit is all due to closure. SCHWETZ said short answer is yes. We did make a profit in 2019.

JUSTUS asked if an RFP is a good practice to see what is out there and what other opportunities are available. Support a new RFP.

SCHWETZ talked about Zoo Lights and how we are working on making it COVID safe. We worked with Public Health to make sure we are following all the County protocols.

ERICKSON has been in touch with neighbors and they have new listservs and wants to make sure we are communicating with them about when the Lights start.

SCHWETZ said the Zoo hired new Zoo Manager. Laura Weiner comes from Oregon. She is shadowing keepers and getting up to speed. It's very exciting to have our zoo operation positions fully staffed. She will be invited to a future commission meeting so you can meet her.

Polar bear Bo is coming tomorrow. He will be quarantined on exhibit because the female bears have all denned up for the winter. He could potentially be on exhibit by this weekend.

Zoo School has settled in to a nice rhythm. We did have a few student changes and scheduling adjustments so now it's running smoothly. One of the kids has already decided she wants to be a zookeeper. It's going to be highlighted in our AZA monthly publication in January.

**F. Future Meeting Items and Dates**

*JUSTUS suggested no December meeting but asked for an email update instead. SCHWETZ said that would be easy to do. BECKER asked if that would impact the reclassification resolution. SCHWETZ said we won't be able to act on that until 2021 anyway. Meeting set for January 5, 2021 at 7:30am.*

**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 GUNDERSON, that the Zoo Commission be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:40am.**

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