



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, June 1, 2021

7:30 AM

Virtual Zoom Meeting: See top of agenda for
instructions

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 at 7:33am. The motion carried unanimously.

Present 6 - JONATHAN BECKER, Supervisor CHUCK ERICKSON, MICHAEL PETERSEN, ANNE ROSS, SARAH JUSTUS, and JEFFREY GUNDERSON

Excused 1 - TAG EVERS

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2021](#)
[MIN-086](#)

Attachments: [2021 MIN-086](#)

A motion was made by ERICKSON, 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

Joseph gave an update on visitor numbers and donation revenue for 2021. The zoo has had just over 228,500 visitors so far in 2021, which is comparable to pre-COVID numbers. Last month was one of our best months with Centerplate concessions. We expect those numbers to continue to rise over the summer as attendance increases. We are slightly behind where we were in 2019, but we are still in the beginning phases of reopening everything. We are working with Centerplate to ensure consistent staffing during busy summer months. As long as we can host our events the second half of the year, like Zoo Lights, we should do very well in 2021. Discussion ensued.

Ronda updated commissioners on animal updates. Otter pups babies will be introduced to dad this week. Later this week or early next week will be their public debut. The media is interested in their debut so we will be sending out a press release. We received a male capybara, who is in quarantine right now and will be a companion to our female capybara. We are using this time when they are at the Animal Health Center to make improvements to the capy exhibit. Hope to have them out in about two to four weeks.

Architectural firm CLR: The CLR kickoff will happen in late June, (June 23-25) which will be three days of meetings with their team. This will be the official start of our capital campaign. Commission and neighbors will be included. This will set the foundation for where we go next. Discussion ensued.

COVID update: we will be opening the train, goat feeding. No more regulations starting Wednesday. We will be opening primate building and the Herpetarium as soon as we can get the last safety modifications completed. The Aviary will not be open right away because it's an open air building and we have several COVID susceptible animals there including the otter pups. We also will not be opening the playground right away because we can't monitor that space and it gets very crowded and there is a lot of surface touching. Masks will be encouraged but not enforced in indoor animal areas. Discussion ensued.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

The next Zoo Commission meeting will take place virtually on Tuesday, August 10 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 JUSTUS, that the Zoo Commission meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.

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