



# 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, August 10, 2021

7:30 AM

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#### Virtual meeting

#### A. Call To Order

*Others present: Joseph Darcangelo, Kristin Moala, Jess Thompson*

A motion was made by ROSS that the Zoo Commission meeting be called to order at 7:32am. The motion carried unanimously.

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

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

[2021](#)  
[MIN-182](#)

**Attachments:** [2021 MIN-182](#)

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

#### C. Action Items

*None*

#### D. Presentations

*None*

#### E. Reports to Committee

**Zoo Report**

*Darcangelo gave an update on COVID. The County put out a policy requiring face masks for County employees. The Primate building and Herpetarium are closed again. The Aviary hasn't reopened due to COVID susceptible animals inside so that didn't change. All outdoor areas are operating as usual. Carousel, gift shop, and grille are all open but require masks. We increased signage on grounds again.*

*Thompson gave an update on education programs. The Zoo was recently awarded a \$250k grant from ACE (Advancing Conservation through Empathy) to create an Interpretive Master Plan for all of our signage on grounds to advance our conservation actions. The grant is being facilitated by Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle. We will be working with the Madison Children's Museum and ECOS Communications, a signage company that has worked with quite a few zoos across the country and have a lot of experience with empathy work as well. It's a two year grant process, the first year will be research and design and year two would include installation.*

*Thompson gave an update on volunteer programs.*

*Darcangelo gave an animal update and talked about improvements to security on grounds. Main focus is to make sure animal welfare is protected.*

*Darcangelo gave an update on after-hours events and upcoming Zoo events. The Zoo Run is on track. Almost 500 runners registered, which is about 100 more than we had at this point in 2019. Darcangelo gave an update on YTD attendance. There were fewer school programs in March – May, but otherwise we are on track to pre-pandemic numbers. Darcangelo talked about the concessions RFP that will be up again this year. We expect Centerplate to bid again and think there may be other national vendors interested. Discussion ensued.*

**F. Future Meeting Items and Dates**

*The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 7:30am. The meeting will be held virtually.*

**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 ROSS, seconded by EVERS, that the Zoo Commission meeting be adjourned at 8:50am. The motion carried unanimously.**