



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?

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

7:30 AM

Virtual meeting

A. Call To Order

Others present: Joseph Darcangelo, Jess Thompson, Kristin Moala, Supervisor Melissa Radcliff

The September 8, 2021 Zoo Commission meeting was called to order by Supervisor Erickson at 7:34am.

Present 6 - JONATHAN BECKER, Supervisor CHUCK ERICKSON, TAG EVERS, JEFFREY GUNDERSON, MICHAEL PETERSEN, and ANNE ROSS
Excused 1 - SARAH JUSTUS

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2021
MIN-238](#)

Attachments: [2021 MIN-238](#)

A motion was made by PETERSEN, seconded by EVERS, that the Minutes from the August Zoo Commission be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote.

C. Action Items

5. [2021
RES-130](#) ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT TO SUPPORT CONSERVATION
EDUCATION AT THE HENRY VILAS ZOO

Sponsors: ERICKSON, RATCLIFF, RIPP, EICHER, JOERS, RITT and HATCHER

Attachments: [2021 RES-130](#)
[2021 RES-130 Fiscal Note](#)

Jess Thompson talked about the ACE grant. Close to \$250k was awarded to create an interpretive master plan. The Zoo will be working on this with a few collaborators including ECOS, who is also part of the team working on the new Heart of the Zoo project, the Madison Children's Museum, and Beez Kneez Creative, an organization that has experience working with AZA. The grant cycle will start this year and end in 2023. Discussion ensued.

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

D. Presentations

None

E. Reports to Committee

Jess Thompson informed the Commission that AZA just awarded Henry Vilas Zoo top honors for Education this year. The award is for Zoo School that we had during the 2020-21 school year. We will be announcing it after the AZA annual conference in two weeks.

Joseph Darcangelo gave several animal updates. Our rhino keeper had a successful voluntary blood draw for the first time last week. Training with animals for medical procedures has been going really well. One of our geriatric camels accepted voluntary injection to help with arthritis. Had a venomous snake exam that went smoothly. Orangutan intros are still going really well. Successful radiographs on porcupines. Keepers have been doing an excellent job of observing animal behavior and making adjustments as needed.

Joseph gave an update on CLR. We're still in the big picture planning phase of this project and putting together a footprint of where things will go. Next planning session is scheduled for next week and that meeting will focus on engineering and sustainability.

Concession RFP – controller's office is currently reviewing it. We are hoping for a handful of bids including our current vendor. Once the RFP is public we will begin looking at who will review the applications. The biggest change will be the Zoo taking over the train/carousel operations. Contract will be based on gross rev instead of net. Discussion ensued.

Upcoming Events – We are working closely with the County to ensure safe events during COVID. Run Wild participation is up. Permits are all finalized. We changed the start location and switched to a rolling start to allow participants to spread out. QR codes will be used to show results and we decided not to hand out medals to reduce touch points at the end of the run. We will be sending out emails to neighborhood listservs to alert neighbors.

Boo – We will not be doing our traditional Boo at the Zoo. In a typical year we see about 14,000 people, and the majority of those guests are not old enough to get a COVID vaccine. We will be celebrating all month long on the weekends. Haunted train, pumpkin animal enrichment on the weekends, Instagram costume contest, adult trivia, scavenger hunt, mascot parade, grille and chocolate shoppe specials.

Zoo Lights – timed ticketing will alleviate lines. We will still have walk up ticketing available but we will be encouraging timed tickets. Right now we are not planning on holding Brew Lights this year. There are just too many uncertainties around that particular event and it's hard to plan a safe, drinking event during COVID.

Budget – Joseph shared a snapshot of what he will be sharing with the County Board as we go in to the budget season. Discussion ensued.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 5, 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 EVERS, seconded by ERICKSON, that the Zoo Commission be adjourned at 9:04am. The motion carried unanimously.

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