



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, January 11, 2022

7:30 AM

Virtual meeting. Please see top of agenda for instructions on how to join the meeting.

A. Call To Order

Others present: Ronda Schwetz, Kristin Moala, Joseph Darcangelo, Supervisor Melissa Radcliff

A motion was made by ROSS that the January Zoo Commission meeting be called to order at 7:35 am.

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

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2021](#)
[MIN-530](#)

Attachments: [2021 MIN-530](#)

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

C. Action Items

[2021
RES-316](#)

PHASE II (AFRICAN SAVANNAH PHASE) DESIGN DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEART OF THE ZOO
IMPROVEMENTS-ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN
SERVICES

Sponsors: RATCLIFF and RIPP

Attachments: [2021 RES-316](#)
[2021 RES-316 FISCAL NOTE](#)

Resolution for \$488,000 negotiated through public works. Sponsored by Supervisor Radcliff

SCHWETZ went over the details of the resolution, which approves Phase II work. 7 acres of the zoo needs to be upgraded. The Zoo has outgrown our current education capacity. AZA standards continue to evolve and we want to be in front of that. Looking at better utilizing the area between the current giraffe and rhino exhibits. Redesign will meet evolving zoological standards. Focus on flexibility in habitats with the potential for mixed species spaces. This redesign would increase revenue opportunities by adding a pavilion that could host 200 people year round. The Zoo would potentially be able to get a second rhino with more space. Indoor giraffe barn would include a natural substrate. This work will have a high focus on sustainability. The Zoo plans to utilize our Interpretive Master Plan to focus on empathy throughout the whole design. Discussion ensued.

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

D. Presentations

None

E. Reports to Committee

RFP for concessions is still under review, should have more information by the end of January. New contract would start April 1. DARCANGELO is looking at vendors to see how they fit in with our mission and vision. He is looking at sustainability and conservation in proposals to see how vendors will invest in our facilities to enhance revenue opportunities.

KEEN research project is moving forward with demographic study that will give us more information about equity and inclusion and provide insights about who is visiting the zoo and what the barriers are preventing people from accessing the zoo.

The Zoo's new after school program started yesterday. We are utilizing some of our scholarship money. Also raised \$13,000 from end of year Zoo Lights tickets for scholarships. We are starting with Franklin and Randall Elementary because they make the most sense geographically. Most students currently enrolled are on partial scholarship.

Annual Report is almost complete. Will send the final draft out to the Commission.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

The next meeting will be held on February 1 at 7:30am The meeting will take place 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 be adjourned at 8:29am. The motion carried unanimously.

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