



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, September 6, 2022

7:30 AM

Virtual

Virtual

A. Call To Order

Others present: Lisa MacKinnon, Ronda Schwetz, Joseph Darcangelo, Kristin Moala

A motion was made by CASTILLO that the Zoo Commission be called to order at 7:41am.

- Present** 5 - TAG EVERS, JEFFREY GUNDERSON, MICHAEL PETERSEN, ANNE ROSS, and Supervisor CECELY CASTILLO
- Excused** 2 - SARAH JUSTUS, and JONATHAN BECKER

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2022](#)
[MIN-259](#)

Attachments: [2022 MIN-259](#)

A motion was made by PETERSEN, 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: Director Schwetz gave an update. The architecture firm we are using will be at the zoo the week of September 19th to go over new giraffe exhibit plans. 2023 budget will be out in October. We did include a new diversity line item to help us start implementing some of the recommendations from the Keen report. AZA will be doing a visit sometime this month but we don't have dates confirmed yet. This visit will look in to the animal welfare complaints that were reported on early this year. We are inviting the external judge the County appointed to participate in that visit. Just finished putting up new bison fencing. We are getting in to our shipping season. We are hoping to get new bison and a camel this fall. We lost our female red panda last week. We will be looking for a suitable companion for Bandit as soon as we can work with the Species Survival Plan coordinator. Discussion ensued.

**2022
RPT-316**

Attachments: 2022 RPT-316

Lisa MacKinnon gave a summary of the report. The Keen survey process took almost one full year. Keen is a 28-person national equity consulting firm. The objective was to evaluate racial and social equity at Dane County Parks and the Zoo and make recommendations to become more inclusive.

Keen held discussions with internal stakeholders, created an ad-hoc advisory group, did comparative research, and surveyed visitors and non-visitors. Survey received over 600 responses. The demographic survey responses mirrored the population of Dane County very closely.

Keen provided a list of nine recommendations. Full report is 95-pages and is on the County Board website. Their report affirmed the zoo's existing intentional equity work. It was apparent to Keen that zoo staff have already done quite a bit of work on access and equity.

Discussion ensued.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

The next meeting will be held on October 4th 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 EVERS, seconded by PETERSEN, that the Zoo Commission be adjourned at 9:12am. The motion carried unanimously.

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