



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, March 11, 2025

8:00 AM

A. Call To Order

Others present: Ronda Schwetz, Joseph Darcangelo, Jess Thompson, Courtney Cordova, Kristin Moala, Amanda Pedersen, Eric Urtes, Jeff Sawyer, and Nicolet Wojtak.

A motion was made that the Zoo Commission meeting be called to order at 8:05am..

- Present** 5 - TAG EVERS, MICHAEL PETERSEN, ANNE ROSS, JASMINE BANKS, and ERIN WELSH
- Excused** 2 - JEFFREY GUNDERSON, and SARAH JUSTUS

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2024](#)
[MIN-512](#)

Attachments: [2024 MIN-512](#)

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

C. Action Items

2. [2024](#)
[RES-351](#) ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THROUGH CONSERVATION ACTION AND STORYTELLING IN A MODULAR EXHIBIT SPACE AT HENRY VILAS ZOO

Sponsors: WELSH and ENGELBERGER

Attachments: [2024 RES-351](#)
[2024 RES-351 Fiscal Note](#)

A motion was made by PETERSEN, seconded by EVERS that the Resolution Requiring 2/3rds Vote be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote.

D. Presentations

[2024](#)
[PRES-195](#)

Attachments: [2024 PRES-195](#)

E. Reports to Committee

Conservation Education Grant

Resolution 351 "Acceptance of a Grant Community Engagement Through Conservation Action and Storytelling in a Modular Exhibit Space at Henry Vilas Zoo". The \$300,000 grant (distributed in three installments) is for a 2-1/2 year project and is from Woodland Park Zoo. The grant "will be used to support the development and implementation of empathy-driven conservation at the Henry Vilas Zoo".

CLR Presentation

Edge of Africa-Giraffe exhibit will go where current rhino exhibit is and will be about half an acre in size, which is double the previous giraffe exhibit. The goal of this project is to bring back a herd of approximately three to five giraffes. Space can potentially offer a unique setting to host small events. Currently at the end of Phase 3.

Reports to Committee

-S/B was selected from recent RFP to provide marketing for zoo lights and other events with a focus on increasing revenue. Contract should be ready in about two weeks.

-Zoo Light RFP should be ready soon.

-Older meerkat pups have been sent to other zoos which leaves HVZ with a mob of 7. Should be getting in new birds for the aviary in spring.

-Zoo Commission will provide an update to public works and transportation committee at their next meeting.

-Lion dental procedure this week. UW students will be present and have the opportunity to learn.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

The next meeting will take place April 8, 2025 at 8:00AM.

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 WELSH, that the Zoo Commission meeting be adjourned at 9:25am. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Pedersen, pending approval from the Zoo Commission.