



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 5, 2024

8:00 AM

Henry Vilas Zoo

A. Call To Order

Others present: Ronda Schwetz, Joseph Darcangelo, Kristin Moala

A motion was made by ROSS that the Zoo Commission meeting be called to order at 8:04am. The motion carried unanimously.

Present 6 - TAG EVERS, JEFFREY GUNDERSON, SARAH JUSTUS, MICHAEL PETERSEN, ANNE ROSS, and JASMINE BANKS

Excused 1 - Supervisor CECELY CASTILLO

B. Consideration of Minutes

None

C. Action Items

None

D. Presentations

None

E. Reports to Committee

AZA application was submitted at the end of February. The application is the culmination of over a year of hard work by staff across all departments. We are very proud of the document we submitted. The next step will be to set dates with our inspectors for an on-site inspection. We expect that to happen in June or July. Now that the AZA application has been submitted, we will have more time to focus on our Edge of Africa designs for the new giraffe building.

Budget - In 2023 the Zoo had a \$6.5 million operating budget. The Zoo made over \$3 million in revenue. Some of the number breakdown includes \$252,000 on animal food and \$121,000 on animal medicine. Discussion ensued.

Staff Updates - Last month we filled a .6 keeper position with an internal hire, which opened up one of our FTE keeper positions. That position has been filled by a former LTE keeper.

Animal Updates - with the warmer weather we have an early shipping season. We expect to get a female red panda and several meerkats this spring. We will also be getting a lot of invertebrates for both the Discovery Center and the Animal Ambassador areas of the Zoo. Our very geriatric Indian crested porcupine passed away. At 24.5 years old he far outlived his life expectancy.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

The next meeting will take place on April 3, 2024 starting at 8am.

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 JUSTUS, seconded by GUNDERSON, that the Zoo Commission meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.

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