



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, October 11, 2023

7:30 AM

A. Call To Order

Others present: Ronda Schwetz, Kristin Moala

A motion was made by ROSS that the Zoo Commission meeting be called to order at 7:31am. The motion carried unanimously.

Present 7 - TAG EVERS, JEFFREY GUNDERSON, SARAH JUSTUS, MICHAEL PETERSEN, ANNE ROSS, Supervisor CECELY CASTILLO, and JASMINE BANKS

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2023](#)
[MIN-324](#)

Attachments: [2023 MIN-324](#)

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

C. Action Items

None

D. Presentations

None

E. Reports to Committee

SCHWETZ updated the Commission on staffing. The zoo is reviewing lead vet tech applications, and in the process of interviews for a keeper opening. The 2024 budget process is still ongoing - the Zoo has asked for a FTE veterinarian, a .6 keeper position, and 2 LTE positions. Current LTE keepers were just approved for extended hours this year, which is a big help as we work to fill our vacant keeper position.

The Zoo continues to work with GRAZE (Growing Resiliency for Aquarium and Zoo Employees) to help staff with mental health and compassion fatigue. The Zoo has quarterly check-ins with GRAZE for senior staff and keeper staff can set up confidential individual appointments any time throughout the year.

The Zoo recently transferred their giraffe to the NEW Zoo in Green Bay. The move was necessary for the upcoming giraffe capital campaign. Fall is shipping season for Zoos and Aquariums because of the cooler temperatures and the Zoo is expecting to get several animals this fall.

The Commission got information about upcoming events including Boo at the Zoo, Zoo Lights, and Brew Lights. Discussion ensued.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

The next meeting will take place in person at 7:30am on November 11, 2023 at Henry Vilas Zoo.

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 at 8:16am. The motion carried unanimously.

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