



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, April 14, 2026

8:00 AM Hybrid Meeting: Attend in person at 702 S. Randall Ave;
attend virtually via Zoom.

See below for additional instructions on how to attend the meeting.

A. Call To Order

Others present: Janine Wachter, Joseph Darcangelo, Kristin Moala, Jess Thompson, Beth Petersen, Amanda Pedersen, Dr. Mary Thurber, Elizabeth Petersen, Heather Merewood, Erik Anderson, Supervisor Michelle Ritt, and Stephan Mac

A motion was made by ROSS that the Zoo Commission meeting be called to order at 8:01am. The motion carried unanimously.

Present 6 - TAG EVERS, JEFFREY GUNDERSON, SARAH JUSTUS, ANNE ROSS, JASMINE BANKS, and ERIN WELSH

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2025](#)
[MIN-683](#)

Attachments: [2025 MIN-683](#)

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

C. Action Items

5. [2025 RES-358](#) AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE ARCTIC FOX EXHIBIT CONSTRUCTION AT HENRY VILAS ZOO, 702 S. RANDALL AVE., MADISON, WI

Sponsors: ENGELBERGER, FRIES and RYLANDER

Attachments: [2025 RES-358](#)
[2025 RES-358 FISCAL NOTE](#)
[2025 RES-358 CONTRACT #16176](#)

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

E. Anderson, E. Petersen, and J. Wachter spoke on this agenda item.

M. Ritt registered and spoke in opposition on this item.

D. Presentations

E. Reports to Committee

Zoo Report:

-Operational Updates

-Animal Updates

-Conservation/Education Updates

-Event/Marketing Updates

J. Wachter gave Operational updates: Guest Services Coordinator resignation, zoo-wide HVAC project, and volunteer opportunities. J. Wachter and J. Darcangelo gave update on goal setting and budget work. Dr. M. Thurber and E. Petersen gave Animal updates: QOL care, new sloth arrival, seasonal animal moves and acquisitions. H. Merewood gave Conservation/Education updates: Party for the Planet event, breakfast with critters, education programs. K. Moala gave Event/Marketing updates: spring blood drive, SSA Mother's Day brunch.

F. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday May 12th at 8am.

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

I. Adjourn

A motion was made by EVERS, seconded by JUSTUS, that the Zoo Commission meeting be adjourned at 9:12am. The motion carried unanimously.

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