



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, January 3, 2024

7:30 AM

A. Call To Order

Others present: Ronda Schwetz, Joseph Darcangelo, Kristin Moala, Valerie McGoldrick

A motion was made by ROSS that the Zoo Commission meeting be called to order at 7:36am. The motion carried unanimously.

Present 6 - JEFFREY GUNDERSON, SARAH JUSTUS, MICHAEL PETERSEN, ANNE ROSS, Supervisor CECELY CASTILLO, and JASMINE BANKS

Excused 1 - TAG EVERS

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2023](#)
[MIN-441](#) MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 15, 2023 HENRY VILAS ZOO COMMISSION MEETING

Attachments: [2023 MIN-441](#)

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

C. Action Items

- [2023](#)
[RES-220](#) AMENDMENT B TO THE AGREEMENT FOR CLR DESIGN, INC. FOR DESIGN OF PHASE III THROUGH PHASE V (GIRAFFE/GROUND BIRDS EXHIBIT) FOR THE HEART OF THE ZOO IMPROVEMENTS.
CONTRACTOR: CLR DESIGN, INC.

Sponsors: RIPP and ENGELBERGER

Attachments: [2023 RES-220](#)
[2023 RES-220 FISCAL NOTE](#)
[2023 RES-220 CONTRACT #14345B](#)

A motion was made by JUSTUS, seconded by GUNDERSON, that the Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote.

[2023
RES-265](#)

ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT TO SUPPORT BUILDING A KIDS'
GARDEN AT HENRY VILAS ZOO

Sponsors: CASTILLO

Attachments: [2023 RES-265](#)
[2023 RES-265 Fiscal Note](#)

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

D. Presentations

None

E. Reports to Committee

In December, the Zoo had a USDA inspection. This was the first inspection since USDA included standards around bird care in their scope of work. The Zoo is very proud of the animal care team for maintaining such high animal care standards and is happy to report that the inspector found no concerns.

2024 is an AZA accreditation year. Our formal application packet is due by March 1, 2024. A multi-day site visit will happen this summer, most likely in June or July. Final decisions will be made at the AZA annual conference this fall.

The Zoo is in the process of finalizing Core Values and a Strategic Plan.

The Zoo's veterinarian and some members from the animal care team attended a hoof-trimming workshop. The Zoo's male orangutan is undergoing a health checkup in February and will be participating in a research study during that procedure. Recently, several ornate box turtles hatched from the DNR population of turtles. The capybaras are in the Animal Health Center for the winter.

In 2023, HVZ raised over \$42,000 for conservation. The majority of the funds raised came from the Zoo's membership program.

For 2024, the Zoo will be contracting with a nutritionist to assist our veterinarian in diet plans for various animals at the Zoo.

Zoo Lights wrapped up another successful year. At the next meeting there will be more data available for a year end report.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

The next meeting will take place in person at Henry Vilas Zoo on Tuesday, February 6th, 2024 starting 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 JUSTUS, seconded by BANKS, that the Zoo Commission meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.

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