



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, February 6, 2024

7:30 AM

Henry Vilas Zoo

A. Call To Order

A motion was made by ROSS that the 2.6.24 Zoo Commission meeting be called to order at 7:35am. The motion carried unanimously.

Present 5 - TAG EVERS, SARAH JUSTUS, ANNE ROSS, Supervisor CECELY CASTILLO, and JASMINE BANKS

Excused 2 - JEFFREY GUNDERSON, and MICHAEL PETERSEN

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2023](#)
[MIN-491](#)

Attachments: [2023 MIN-491](#)

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

C. Action Items

None

D. Presentations

None

E. Reports to Committee

Zoo Report

*Staffing and General Operations - Zoo has had 97% retention rate over last 5 years
.6 Zookeeper FTE position filled internally, opens a 1.0 FTE Zookeeper position which we can fill from last recruitment
.6 Zoo Attendant FTE positions still waiting on applicants from ER
Lead Vet Tech 1.0 FTE position also waiting on applicants from ER
Veterinarian 1.0 FTE position closes Friday 2/9/24*

DEAI updates - Have filled some LET zoo attendant, clerk and vet tech positions, have had success with more diverse recruitment and hirings. Education is partnering with the Nelson Institute to host a one day Neurodivergent class funded by the Nelson institute.

Animal Welfare updates - Polar bear Bo was moved to Louisville. Smoothest and fastest procedure and crating so far. He will be paired to breed with an orphan bear from Alaska which if successful will be the first time and add new genetics to the polar bear population which has less than 50 bears in the united states

Orangutan procedure this week.

We have two new female rock hyraxes, and a female red panda coming also a female capy has come to be with our male.

Starting up with CLR in spring to do construction documents

Operations updates - AZA application for accreditation materials is due March 1st. We prepare for this for over a year. It is a tremendous effort by our entire staff.

Fixing up capy and otter back holding and putting in some new doors throughout the zoo

The safety committee is helping identify issues in the zoo to prioritize

Joseph met with the neighbors and these meetings are going well to continue communication

Talked about finished Strategic plan and core values and how all staff worked on core values and were part of process for strategic plan. Over 900 people filled out strategic plan survey and all zoo commissioners were invited and/or contributed to the final version.

Financial updates - Joseph will have 2023 year end numbers in March

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

The next meeting will a hybrid meeting on March 5, 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 EVERS, seconded by JUSTUS, that the Zoo Commission meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Ronda Schwetz, pending approval from the Zoo Commission.