

## Remarks for Kewaunee County Board Meeting Steve Bruemmer - Tuesday, February 9, 2021

With my gifts to the Zoological Society of Kewaunee County of \$20,000 for the African animal exhibit and \$100,000 for the ornamental pheasant enclosure, I am writing the next chapter in the philanthropy of the Bruemmer family. The Bruemmer Park Zoo was founded in 1936 due to the efforts and generosity of my grandfather Leo Bruemmer and his brother Otto, my great uncle, in honor of their father Judge Louis Bruemmer, my great grandfather, after whom the zoo is named. (Their photos, by the way, can be found in the historical society on Ellis Street.)

As a youngster in the 1950's, I fondly remember visiting my grandparents in Kewaunee at 1122 Milwaukee Street. On a Friday night we would drive up from Madison where we lived. On Saturday morning my grandmother would take my sister and me to Woolworth's downtown and give each of us \$1.00 to buy whatever we wanted. On Saturday afternoon my grandfather would take us to the zoo where we had a picnic and then toured the grounds. Of course, the zoo was not as grand as the one we had in Madison, no elephants or zebras or lions, but foxes, peacocks, deer, goats, and a bear. Alas there is no longer a bear, but the zoo still has its charm and it is in Kewaunee's backyard and it is free. Perfect for area families with young children.

I hope the gifts I am making and the matching funds offered by Kewaunee County will invigorate the Bruemmer Park Zoo. I will follow with interest the spring installation of the four new animal statues which, along with the giraffe Melvin, will constitute the new African exhibit. I envision new landscaping that will mimic the African savannah and therefore give visitors a real feel for the African animal kingdom.

I am especially enthusiastic about the creation of the new pheasant enclosure which will showcase a variety of ornamental pheasants. With this new exhibit, the hope is that the Bruemmer Park Zoo might become to pheasant lovers what the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo is to crane lovers.

I am grateful to the Kewaunee County Board for matching the funds that I am contributing to the improvements to the Bruemmer Park Zoo.