



# City of Madison

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
www.cityofmadison.com

## Meeting Minutes - Draft BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

*Consider: Who benefits? Who is burdened?  
Who does not have a voice at the table?  
How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?*

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Wednesday, May 14, 2025

6:30 PM

VIRTUAL

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### 1 CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was held virtually at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, May 14, 2025. President Miller Fienen called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.  
Members Present: Ald. Derek Field; Ald. Carmella Glenn; Moira Harrington; Chandra Miller Fienen; and Michelle Probst.  
Members Excused: Catie McDonald and Ben Williams.  
Parks Staff Present: Lisa Laschinger; CJ Ryan; Chad Hughes; Joanne Austin; Dave Vetovec; Bill Remm; Ken Allen; Mike Sturm; Steve Dray; Terrence Thompson; and Adam Kaniewski.  
City Staff Present: Katie Crawley, Mayor's Office; Rebecca Cnare, Planning; Matt Tucker, Building Inspection; Aaron Canton, Engineering; and Ryan Newman and Tim Pearson, Water Utility.

### 2 [88085](#) Approval of the Minutes of the April 9, 2025 Board of Park Commissioners meeting.

Motion made by Harrington, seconded by Probst, to Approve the Minutes of the April 9, 2025 Board of Park Commissioners meeting with Alders Field and Glenn recusing themselves as they were not present at the April meeting.  
Motion passed by voice vote/other.

### 3 [87987](#) Public Comment

There were no registrants for Public Comment.

### 4 DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

Alders Field and Glenn recused themselves from Approval of the April minutes as they were not present.

**5 President of the Park Commission**

President Miller Fienen thanked District 10 Alder Figueroa Cole for her leadership and enthusiasm as a Park Commissioner, Alder, and President of the Common Council. Alder Figueroa Cole was on the Parks Commission from 2021-2025. Miller Fienen welcomed Alder Carmella Glenn and Alder Derek Field to the Commission. Commissioner Ben Williams has been reappointed. Thanked Harrington for teaching her. Thanked Interim Superintendent Lisa Laschinger and Assistant Superintendent CJ Ryan for leading the meetings. Laschinger will be the Interim Parks Superintendent while Eric Knepp is in an interim role with Madison Metro. The August 2025 Park Commission meeting will be a standard meeting instead of a tour.

**6 Superintendent of Parks**

Laschinger gave the report. She's looking forward to leading the talented and dedicated Parks team as Interim Superintendent for the next few months. Busy season for us with many people enjoying the parks. Goodman Pool is opening soon and a Memorial Day celebration will occur at Forest Hill Cemetery. Thank you notes have been given by supervisors to all staff. Two Parks team members, Rah Filla (Rangers) and Kevin Goke (Customer Service) were recognized by Team City. Parks Long Range Planning and Open Space Plan is underway and expected to meet their deadline. Golf courses are doing great. Picnic in the Park is happening this Saturday and Nature Everywhere day is June 1st. Ryan will have a more driving role in the Board of Park Commissioners as Laschinger takes the interim position. Streets Superintendent Charlie Romines has agreed to provide mentorship to the golf program during this interim period.

**7 [88087](#) May 2025 Superintendent's Report**

Parks Operations Manager Chad Hughes presented the Parks Operations report.

Motion made by Probst, seconded by Field, to Accept the Report. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

**8 [88088](#) Report of the April 21, 2025 Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee Minutes.**

Motion made by Glenn, seconded by Probst, to Accept the Minutes. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

**9 NEW BUSINESS**

**Motion made by Field, seconded by Glenn, to Approve by Consent Agenda No. 10, Legislative File No. 87988 and No. 11, Legislative File No. 88284. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**

10\* [87988](#)

Board of Park Commissioners proclaiming May 17, 2025 as Kids to Parks Day in the city of Madison

**Motion made by Field, seconded by Glenn, to Approve the Proclamation. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**

11\* [88284](#)

Board of Park Commissioners proclaiming June 1, 2025 as Nature Everywhere Day in Madison

**Motion made by Field, seconded by Glenn, to Approve the Proclamation. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**

12 [87830](#)

Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a Parking Lot and Driveway Use Agreement with the Steve Stricker American Family Insurance Foundation for the use of the parking lots in Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park-North Unit during the American Family Insurance Championship. (District 18)

**Assistant Superintendent CJ Ryan provided a summary of the agreement and answered questions.**

**Registered speaker Tournament Manager Katie Johnson of Steve Stricker American Family Insurance Foundation spoke in support.  
Registered speaker Tournament Director Nate Pokrass of Steve Stricker American Family Insurance Foundation spoke in support.  
Registered speaker Marsha Cannon spoke in opposition.  
Registered speaker Matthew Peterson spoke in opposition.  
Registered speaker Susan McMurray spoke in opposition.**

**Motion made by Glenn, seconded by Harrington, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the FINANCE COMMITTEE. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**

13 [88156](#)

Approving request from Peter Taglia to use a portion of Brittingham Park for a house moving operation.

**Registered speaker Peter Taglia spoke in support and was available to answer questions.**

**Motion made by Field, seconded by Harrington, to Approve the Request. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**

- 14      [88148](#)      Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to enter into an Amended View Preservation Easement for Merrill Springs Park (District 19)
- Ryan provided an overview and shared last minute request for changes. Would need to go to Council to request it be re-referred to June's Board of Park Commissioners meeting for further discussion.
- Registered speaker Faith Fitzpatrick of Friends of Merrill Springs Park spoke in opposition.  
Registered speaker Kimberly McBride was in opposition and available to answer questions.
- Motion made by Field, seconded by Glenn, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO RE-REFER to Board of Park Commissioners meeting in June - REPORT OF OFFICER. Motion passed by voice vote/other.
- 15      [88244](#)      Approving Request from WI Clearwater Collective to Install Biohaven Floating Island in Tenney Lagoon as a Pilot Study to Improve Water Quality beginning in June 2025 through October 2025. (District 6)
- Registered Speaker Aaron Cutler of Madison Floating Island project gave a summary in support.
- Motion made by Probst, seconded by Glenn, to Approve the Request. Motion passed by voice vote/other.
- 16      [88237](#)      Request from Madison Ultimate Frisbee Association (MUFA) to install trail camera at North Star Park for the purpose of monitoring property damage to their portable toilet facility (District 3)
- Registered speaker Pete Schramm of Madison Ultimate Frisbee Association was in support and available to answer questions.
- Motion made by Field, seconded by Miller Fienen, to Approve the Request. Motion passed by voice vote/other.
- 17      [88157](#)      Approving a Temporary Alcohol Ban at Elver Park on July 5, 2025 and July 6, 2025. (District 20)
- Park Ranger Supervisor Steve Dray provided an overview of the request for the temporary alcohol ban.
- Motion made by Harrington, seconded by Field, to Approve the Request. Motion passed by the following vote:
- Approve (4): Ald. Derek Field; Moira Harrington; Chandra Miller Fienen; and Michelle Probst.  
Oppose (1): Ald. Carmella Glenn.

- 18      [88271](#)      Approving the implementation of a Pilot Tee Time Reservation Protocol and New Cancellation Fee for the Madison Golf program's 2025 golf season
- Registered speaker Bill Remm of City Golf was neither in support nor opposition.**
- Laschinger provided an overview.
- Golf Director Dave Vetovec and Clubhouse Supervisor Ken Allen discussed the plan and were available to answer questions.
- Motion made by Glenn, seconded by Field, to Approve. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**
- Motion made by Glenn, seconded by Field, to Recess at 8:52 PM. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**
- Members Present: 5 – Ald. Derek Field; Ald. Carmella Glenn; Moira Harrington; Chandra Miller Fienen; and Michelle Probst.**
- Members Excused: 2 - Catie McDonald and Ben Williams.**
- Reconvened at 8:57 PM.**
- Members Present: 5 – Ald. Derek Field; Ald. Carmella Glenn; Moira Harrington; Chandra Miller Fienen; and Michelle Probst.**
- Members Excused: 2 - Catie McDonald and Ben Williams.**
- The Commission chose to take up Agenda Item No. 23 out of order.**
- 19      [88216](#)      Request from City Engineering for the proposed relocation of the existing fishing pier at Law Park due to the reconstruction of John Nolen Drive.
- Aaron Cantor of City Engineering presented an overview of proposed relocation of existing fishing pier.**
- Motion made by Harrington, seconded by Glenn, to Approve the Request. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**
- 20      [88163](#)      Approving an Interagency Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Madison Water Utility and the City of Madison Parks Division for the installation and maintenance of public water main facilities within a portion of Yahara Hills Park (West) located at 3901 Savannah Road. (District 16)
- Ryan Newman of Water Utility presented the MOU.**
- Motion made by Field, seconded by Probst, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**

- 21      [88140](#)      Approving an Interagency Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Madison Water Utility and the City of Madison Parks Division for the installation and maintenance of public water main facilities within a portion of Elver Park located at 7250 Mid Town Road (District 20).

**Tim Pearson of Water Utility presented the MOU.**

**Motion made by Harrington, seconded by Glenn, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**

- 22      [88238](#)      Approving Request from City Planning Division to Conduct Southeast Area Plan Placemaking Activity in Hiestand Park

**Rebecca Cnare of City Planning presented the Southeast Area Plan.**

**Motion made by Field, seconded by Probst, to Approve the Request. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**

- 23      [88246](#)      Approving request from Strand Associates to remove vegetation from drainage swale in Bowman Field adjacent to Strand property and renovate the area to increase drainage and establish native plantings. (District 14)

**The Commission took this item up after Agenda Item No. 18.**

**Registered speaker Ryan Ruff of Strand Associates spoke in support and explained the tree removal.**

**Probst shared what was discussed at the May 13, 2025 Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee meeting.**

**Motion made by Field, seconded by Harrington, to Approve with changes from the May 13, 2025 Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee meeting to have a discussion with the adjacent school's staff on appropriate use of the area and a meeting with Madison Parks staff to identify trees that can be saved. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**

## 24      **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion made by Probst, seconded by Glenn, to Adjourn at 9:35 PM. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**