



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

6:30 PM 625 Northport Dr. # (Warner Park Community Recreation
Center)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

One Vacancy

Present: 5 -

Joseph R. Clausius; Michael Schumacher; William W. Barker; David L. Wallner and Emanuel Scarbrough

Excused: 1 -

Betty Chewning

Parks staff present: Superintendent Kevin Briski, Bill Bauer, Steve Doniger, Brad Weisinger, Jim Weinstock, Ray Shane, LaVonne LaFave, Laura Bauer, Dennis Heidenreich, Doug Keene, Craig Klinke, Kristin Mathews, Ray Parkin, Tom Skaife,

City staff present: Chris Petykowski, Karin Wolf, Ray Harmon

President Barker called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

PARKS EMPLOYEE(S) OF THE MONTH

Superintendent Briski announced this is becoming a wonderful habit for the Parks Division and he appreciates being able to take a bit of time at the beginning of each Park Commission meeting to recognize Parks employees who give back to the city and the areas they serve. It is with pride and appreciation that he announced the January employees of the month – Doug Keene and Ray Parkin who work in West Parks in the mower shop. They were nominated by fellow staff who report they both take a great deal of pride in their work.

The February employee of the month is Tom Skaife who is the Facility Maintenance supervisor. Tom's sense of character brings out the best in his fellow employees. He is a significant leader in the Parks organization.

Also in attendance were family, friends and coworkers Craig Klinke, the East Parks General Supervisor, Bill Schott, the West Parks General Supervisor, and Ray Shane the Golf Supervisor. Also attending is Roberta Sladky, the Olbrich Botanical Gardens Director.

President Barker added that one of the most important aspects of a great park

system is good staff and he is always impressed with the professionalism of Madison Parks staff. Keep up the good work!

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEES

Long Range Planning – Michael Schumacher and David Wallner
Facilities, Programs and Fees – Michael Schumacher and David Wallner
Habitat Stewardship/Tree Board – Janet Parker
Golf – Emanuel Scarbrough
Warner Park Community Recreation Center – Emanuel Scarbrough
Olbrich Botanical Society – Bill Barker
Madison Parks Foundation – Joe Clausius and Michael Schumacher

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Ad Hoc Pool Committee – Joe Clausius.
Ad Hoc Committee on Alcohol and Related Behaviors in City Parks – Joe Clausius, Emanuel Scarbrough, Michael Schumacher, David Wallner

A motion was made by Scarbrough/Schumacher to approve the above appointments as made by President Barker. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

It was also noted that the alder for the district in which Olbrich is located would appoint his/her designee for the Olbrich Board if the alder chose not to accept the appointment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Wallner/Chewning to approve the Minutes of the January 9, 2008 meeting of the Park Commission with one correction: Chewning not Rosas accepted the Minutes of the November 20, 2007 meeting of the Olbrich Botanical Society. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public who wished to comment on items not on the Agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Olbrich Botanical Society Minutes of December 16, 2008 Meeting

A motion was made by Wallner/Clausius to accept the Minutes of the December 16, 2008 meeting of the Olbrich Botanical Society. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Warner Park Community Recreation Center Minutes of the November 20, 2008 Advisory Committee Meeting

A motion was made to accept the Minutes of the November 20, 2008 meeting of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The underwriter has indicated that insurance will cover the roof repair at Warner Park Community Recreation Center that was damaged by last winter's snow.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARK COMMISSION

President Barker reported that Janet Parker will be joining the Park Commission following her approval by the Common Council on February 24, 2009. She works for the Community Action Coalition and met through the Community Gardens Committee. He believes she will be a fine addition to the group and will join the Commission at its March meeting.

He then displayed the first ever Wetland Enjoyment Award won by the Parks Division from the Wisconsin Wetland Association. The Parks Division won this award for its outreach in educating the public on the importance of wetland preservation and restoration in Cherokee Marsh. In addition the Association recognized Si Widstrand and Russ Hefty for their work at the Marsh. Superintendent Briski stated that the Award will be hung in the Administration offices.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS Written Report of Supervisor's Activities

A motion was made to approve the written report of Supervisor's activities. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Informational Items

Superintendent Briski introduced Steve Doniger as the new Community Services Manager. Mr. Doniger was the Park & Recreation Director in Valparaiso, Indiana for the past 14 years. He will oversee the operations at Warner Park Community Recreation Center, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, the Goodman Pool, park rangers, street and downtown events, and attend various committee meetings. He will also focus on promoting the Division through public relations efforts.

He noted the information regarding the gypsy moth suppression program, the 2008 Parks Pesticide Report drafted by Golf Supervisor Ray Shane and the latest Parks Newsletter recognizing employees, programs and events in Madison parks.

The discussion with the Pond Hockey group was removed from the February agenda at the request of the group. They are going to be meeting directly with Parks staff to discuss the process and procedures concerning how we make ice and whether there are ways they can help in those endeavors.

CORRESPONDENCE, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES

Request from Suzanne Schmidt of the Great Lakes Hemophilia Foundation requesting use of Warner Park for a "Treatment and Education Memory Walk on June 6, 2009.

Registered Speaker in support: Suzanne Schmidt

A motion was made by Schumacher/Wallner to approve the request from Suzanne Schmidt of the Great Lakes Hemophilia Foundation requesting use of Warner Park for a "Treatment and Education Memory Walk" on June 6, 2009. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Request from Jackie Ford of the National Lung Cancer Partnership to host a "Free to Breathe" Run/Walk at Warner Park on September 27, 2009.

Registered Speaker in Support: Jackie Ford

A motion was made to approve the request from Jackie Ford of the National Lung Cancer Partnership to host a "Free to Breathe" Run/Walk at Warner Park on September 27, 2009. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Schumacher, wearing his Alder hat, expressed appreciation to the Parks Division staff for listening to the concerns of the neighborhood as shown in the conditions regarding the use of Warner Park by special event participants so that citizens still have access to the park and Rec Center.

13258

Authorizing a declaration of change in use from City park land to public street right-of-way as part of the Hoepker Road reconstruction.

Registered Speaker in Support: Chris Petykowski of Engineering

Petykowski explained that the reconstruction will be occurring on Hoepker Road/American Parkway to accommodate the increased traffic. The road fronts a large parcel owned by Parks and in order to build the road to normal boulevard standards it is necessary to obtain some of the land for the right-of-way and future curb and sidewalks. The reconstruction will improve the intersection. The land is primarily a drainage ditch at the present time.

The entire parcel had originally been designated for a golf course but there are

changing market conditions in golf and that recommendation may not remain. This parcel will go through a master planning process in the future as funds for development of this large community park become available. Property to the south of the affected parcel was purchased with DNR Stewardship funds.

The Certified Survey Map was created because the parcels were purchased at different times from different owners. It will remain parkland in perpetuity.

A motion was made by Clausius, seconded by Schumacher, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by voice vote/other.MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Excused: 1 -

Betty Chewning

A motion was made by Schumacher/Scarborough to take item X. New Business, A. Arts Commission ~ Projects in Parks out of order. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

Arts Commission ~~ Projects in Parks

Karin Wolf, City Arts Coordinator introduced herself to the Commission, stating that her purpose was to discuss city public art that is located in many parks throughout the city. Part of her charge is to conduct a yearly inventory of public art in the city. Olbrich has provided her with a list of the art located on their property. She thanked Bill Bauer for his assistance in the past. Presently there are three projects that need immediate attention. The effigy tree in Hudson Park was brought before the Commission last fall. The neighborhood has been very supportive of this restoration and it is presently being recast in bronze and will be replaced on its site in September 2009.

The second project is the Statue of Liberty located in Warner Park. Her plan is to hold a neighborhood meeting to discuss the piece, research options and determine whether there is both an interest and funds available to restore the statue. The historical significance of this statue is that it was donated by the Boy Scouts in the 1950's as a public service project. If it is restored, it would be placed back in the same location in Warner Park.

The third project is the Annie Stewart Fountain in Vilas Park that needs to be restored so it won't be a decaying memorial in a park.

She reported that about three-quarters of the public art, approximately 38 pieces, is found in parks. The Sid Boyum pieces are cataloged as one piece. There is always a question of how to pay for repairs. New pieces come with an endowment for maintenance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Olbrich Master Plan

Bill Bauer, Interim Parks Planning Manger, reported he made some revisions to the plan based on comments from the January Park Commission meeting. He presented the plan to the Eastmorland Neighborhood Association on February 10 and will be meeting with the SASY Neighborhoods on February 12. He felt the Eastmorland meeting went well. The map does show that the path was removed, however, the bridge is still shown and needs to be deleted.

Comments at Tuesday's meeting included concern for taking out the ball diamonds. People thought that there would be bulldozers coming right away and once he explained that wouldn't be happening for years, they were more comfortable with the plan.

An alternate master plan map has been drawn up by Lou Host Jablonski and Betty Chewning for the SASY neighborhoods and it can be found on their Listserv. The 4 ball diamonds remain and a dog park was placed in the middle of the ball diamonds. Their sketch also shows a road through Kessenich's property. Many of the comments on their plan are master planning type comments, such as the parking lot remains but it should be porous pavement. They limited the gardens development to the parking lot area and the Garver piece shrunk dramatically.

Commissioners requested that any modifications from Parks staff as well as any information received from any of the neighborhood meetings be sent to them prior to the March Park Commission meeting.

Superintendent Briski noted the Commissioners have received lots of testimony in regard to this issue. All of that testimony will be taken into consideration, as well as the comments from Tuesday and those that will be received on Thursday, and will be reviewed by the Long Range Planning Committee and then included in the March Park Commission meeting packets. At the present time this is a land use plan.

The plan will in all likelihood take 10 to 15- to 20-years to build out. Olbrich Botanical Society will conduct a long term fundraising campaign for this expansion. OBS member Dick Wagner commented that this plan addresses replacing the land bank that was there when OBS bought the Garver property. It is really about a swap of land.

Questions then turned to a dog park at Olbrich. The Sycamore dog park is the nearest one to Olbrich and is approximately 4 miles away. There is a separate process discussing potential dog parks on the eastside, and Olbrich has been identified as one potential location.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Schumacher/Wallner the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.