



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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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?*

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

6:30 PM

Via Virtual Meeting

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was held virtually at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, January 13, 2021. President Gnam called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Members Present: Emily Gnam; Moira Harrington; Ald. Zachary Henak; Madelyn Leopold; and Al Martin.

Members Excused: Ald. Paul Skidmore and Venus Washington.

Parks Staff Present: Eric Knepp; Lisa Laschinger; Joanne Austin; Ann Freiwald; Kate Kane; January Vang; and Roberta Sladky.

City Staff Present: Katie Crawley, Mayor's Office.

63610

Approval of the Minutes of the December 9, 2020 Board of Park Commissioners meeting.

Motion made by Henak, seconded by Leopold, to Approve the Minutes of the December 9, 2020 Board of Park Commissioners meeting. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

63609

Public Comment

There were no registrants for Public Comment.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

REPORTS

President of the Park Commission

President Emily Gnam visited several parks and noticed heavy use. The Rennebohm ice rink is seeing heavy use and a resident took a drone video of it. Public Information Officer Ann Shea sent it in an email blast and posted it to the Madison Parks Facebook page. Gnam visited Vilas Park and saw approximately 30 cars in the parking lot. Tonight will be Al Martin's last meeting and she thanked him for his service to the Board of Park Commissioners.

Superintendent of Parks

Superintendent Eric Knepp thanked Al Martin for his service with the Board of Park Commissioners, especially helping with developing processes as well as his work with the City during his tenure as an employee. Winter activities have been good so far. Most ice has been good, but there have been issues with people skating before it was ready causing damage. Revenue to date has already exceeded last year's revenue at the first week of February even without our ability to sell food concessions. Parks are very important this year as people are looking for safe forms of recreation. The Warner Park Community Recreation Center intends to have a soft opening in the next few weeks, hopefully by the end of the month. NewBridge will not be doing any senior programming for awhile and MSCR won't be holding any winter programs. Knepp described the Work Share program being implemented with all City employees. The goal is to reduce mandatory furloughs later in the year. The Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee is working hard and preparing for projects. The Facilities, Programs and Fees Subcommittee is organizing a work plan. There will be a Golf Subcommittee meeting at the end of the month. They hope to introduce a conceptual framework around a donor for the Glenway Golf Course. It will be consistent with the Golf Task Force report that was accepted by Common Council. The goal is to have Glenway privately funded. This will allow for new projects, such as prairie restoration. Some trees will need to be removed. The donor hopes to find use for the course for non-golfers as well. There was an increase in golf revenue this year. Parks will still have the Golf Enterprise Fund this year and Common Council will need to decide its future.

[63622](#)

January 2021 Superintendent's Report

Assistant Superintendent Lisa Laschinger presented the Community Services quarterly report.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens Executive Director Roberta Sladky presented the Olbrich Botanical Gardens quarterly report.

Motion made by Martin, seconded by Leopold, to Accept the Report. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

[63627](#)

Report of the Minutes of the November 16 and December 14, 2020 Facilities, Programs and Fees Subcommittee; September 23 and December 8, 2020 Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee; and the November 17, 2020 Olbrich Botanical Society.

Motion made by Martin, seconded by Harrington, to Accept the Minutes. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

NEW BUSINESS

[63618](#)

Bolz Conservatory at Olbrich Botanical Gardens reopening update and request for extension of increased admission fees in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sladky provided a reopening update and the request to extend the temporary fee increase due to COVID-19 through 2021.

There was discussion regarding improving the scholarship program to provide better equity.

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

[60401](#)

Vilas Park Master Plan Update

Skidmore arrived at 7:41 PM.

Members Present: 6 - Emily Gnam; Moira Harrington; Ald. Zachary Henak; Madelyn Leopold; Al Martin; and Ald. Paul Skidmore.

Members Excused: 1 - Venus Washington.

Parks Landscape Architect Kate Kane presented the update and answered questions. The Final Master Plan is expected to be presented in March. There will be a February 4, 2021 Public Input Meeting.

[63617](#)

Update on 2019 and 2020 Fee Modifications

Laschinger provided the update. An update will be provided annually. Leopold thanked Laschinger and the Facilities, Programs and Fees Subcommittee who review Fee Modifications and will help best determine and justify policies for them in the future.

[63613](#)

Olin Trust Annual Report

Finance Manager January Vang presented the report on the Olin Trust, which is a trust fund earning expenditure plan. Knepp stated that the trust is co-mingled with the Parks Foundation.

Motion made by Martin, seconded by Leopold to Accept the Report. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Martin, seconded by Henak, to Adjourn at 9:09 PM. Motion passed by voice vote/other.