



# City of Madison

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

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Wednesday, April 10, 2013

6:30 PM

Goodman Maintenance Facility  
1402 Wingra Creek Pkwy

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### I CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was held on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 at the Goodman Maintenance Facility at 1402 Wingra Creek Parkway. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Members Present: William Barker; Ald. Joseph Clausius; Ald. Mark Clear, Madelyn Leopold, Nancy Ragland; and David Wallner.

Members Excused: Emanuel Scarbrough.

Parks staff present: Kevin Briski, Eric Knepp, Charlie Romines, Kay Rutledge, Joanne Austin and Russ Hefty.

City staff present: Mayor's Office: Katie Crawley and Mark Woulf; City Engineering: Tony Fernandez, John Reimer, and Brynn Bemis.

### II APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Clausius, seconded by Clear to Approve the minutes of the March 13, 2013 Board of Park Commissioners meeting. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

### III PUBLIC COMMENT

T.R. Loon - provided comments related to the process used for reviewing the Orton Park Festival.

Trish O'Kane - provided the most recent version of Wild Warner's brochure related to birds in Warner Park in honor of Bill Barker's service. O'Kane thanked Parks staff for their work to install bird houses and improve bird habitat within Warner Park.

Printed Information provided by the public at the April 10, 2013 meeting is available by accessing legislative file #30069 on the City's Legislative Information Center Website (<http://madison.legistar.com/Legislation.aspx>).

### IV DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals made at the meeting.

### V REPORTS

#### A President of Parks Commission

President Wallner informed the commission that he had attended the Mallards kickoff event in the past week. He also indicated his appreciation to staff for setting up a tour of the Warner Path project.

**B Superintendent of Parks**

Superintendent Briski informed the Commission that the Madison Parks Foundation has selected Stephanie Franklin as the Madison Parks Foundation Coordinator. She will start April 15th. Superintendent Briski shared the newsletter with the Commission. Vice President Leopold commented that Fresh Madison Market deserved credit for their role in the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. Parks Planning and Development Manager provided information related to the Thornton Avenue project at Tenney. Superintendent Briski provided an update on the Garver building study being managed by City Facilities Management.

**1 April 2013 Supervisor's Report**

A motion was made by Clear seconded by Clausius to Accept the report. Motion passed by voice vote, other.

**VI UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A Warner Park Bike Path Reconstruction and Bridge Replacements**

City staff Kay Rutledge, Charlie Romines, and Tony Fernandez presented information and answered questions on the Warner Bike Path project. Registered Speakers: Michael Rewey, in support with modifications. Paul Nordner, in opposition with written comments attached.

The Commission discussed the potential for saving the Cottonwood tree and its current condition. President Wallner indicated that he did not see that there is not a lot of overlap in users of shelter and the Center's users. Vice President Leopold thanked staff for the site visit and indicated that Tony Fernandez had raised concerns about construction access should the bridge be shifted to keep the Cottonwood. Park Operations Manager Charlie Romines indicated that the Forestry section had evaluated the tree and that any shift in location would not assure the long term health of the Cottonwood and would likely adversely impact other viable trees in the area. Rutledge provided information on the current conditions of the bridges and that they will likely require long term increase in maintenance should they be saved. Leopold indicated her appreciation that City Engineering is supporting this project financially, but that this is a difficult issue.

A motion was made by Clear, seconded by Clausius to Approve Alternate #1 for the Warner Bike Path project plan. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

**VII NEW BUSINESS**

**A Installation of a Launch at Brittingham Park to Facilitate Weed Cutting in Monona Bay**

John Reimer, City Engineering, provided the Commission with an overview of the proposal. The proposal is to create a long term access point for the County to have the ability to get into Monona Bay to conduct weed cutting activities. The Commission inquired about the type of pavement being used and the funding mechanism for the project. A motion was made by Clausius, seconded by Clear to approve. Motion passed by voice vote, other.

**B** Authorizing the Mayor and the City Clerk to enter into an agreement with Madison Fireworks Fund, Inc. and/or Madison Festivals, Inc. to provide for the 2013 Rhythm & Booms Independence Day firework celebration at Warner Park.

**Superintendent Briski introduced the item to the Commission. The contract being presented includes a reduction in the amount of fireworks at the show and maintains provisions related to clean up of the event. Superintendent Briski indicated that Madison Festivals, Inc. is a group that is taking over the event and the City has a working relationship with on other events such as Taste of Madison.**

**Registered Speakers in Opposition: Trish O'Kane; Lucy Mathiak; Tim Nelson; and Paul Noeldner.**

**Registered Speaker in Support: Rita Kelliher, Madison Fireworks Fund.**

**Alder Weier spoke to the Commission about the Committee on the Environment's work related to fireworks in Warner Park. Brynn Bemis of City Engineering spoke to information included in the Warner Park Fireworks Environmental Impact Baseline Study.**

**The Commission discussed the event and its environmental impact. Parks staff provided information related to what the impacts of an approval or denial of this event by the Commission would be. Staff indicated that an action by the Commission to not approve the contract would be interpreted as a disapproval of the event in total. Katie Crawley from the Mayor's Office indicated the Mayor supports the current resolution that includes changes in scope to the event.**

**A motion was made by Clear, seconded by Clausius, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL WITH THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS - REPORT OF OFFICER. The Board of Park Commissioners recommends the following additions added at the Board of Estimates: the area is cleaned in its entirety following the event; duds are disposed of properly and recommend using low or no perchlorate fireworks. The motion passed by the following vote: 4:2: (AYE: Clausius, Clear, Ragland, Wallner; NO: Barker, Leopold).**

**C** Yahara River Parkway Restoration Project

**Ed Jepsen registered his support.**

**A motion was made by Leopold, seconded by Barker to approve. Motion passed by voice vote, other.**

**D** Authorizing City Engineer Rob Phillips to enter into an agreement with the Wisconsin Division of Emergency Management (WEM) to accept a Hazard Mitigation Grant of \$1,176,158 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and a WEM Hazard Mitigation Grant of \$196,026 for construction of a safe room in the Highland Manor Manufactured Home Community ("Highland Manor").

**A motion was made by Barker, seconded by Clear, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed by voice vote/other.**

**E** Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a lease with Community Action Coalition of South Central Wisconsin, Inc. for a portion of Brittingham Park located at 801 West Washington Avenue for use as community gardens.

**Kay Rutledge** introduced the item to the Commission for consideration. **Rutledge** indicated that this resolution includes both Parks Division conditions on the garden as well as **Alder** recommended conditions. The **Alder** recommended conditions are included in **Exhibit B**. **Mark Woulf** from the Mayor's Office presented the Mayor's support of the the lease and desire to remove additional aldermanic conditions. The Mayor's Office is concerned with additional conditions acting as a deterrent to future gardens.

**Registered Speaker** in support: **Chris Brockel**, Community Action Coalition. **Brockel** provided the CAC's position on the lease and indicated that they felt there was no need for the additional conditions in **Exhibit B**, and that the CAC is committed to making this garden a positive element of the park and neighborhood. **Alder Ellingson** spoke about her general support of gardens and she indicated that she has been working on this issue in attempt to balance neighborhood concerns.

A motion was made by **Clear**, seconded by **Leopold**, to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL WITH THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS - REPORT OF OFFICER**. The Park Commission recommends that the conditions in **Exhibit B** be removed. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

**F** Request from March of Dimes for the use of Law Park and portions of Olin Park for March for Babies, on Saturday, May 11, 2013.

A motion was made by **Leopold**, seoncded by **Barker** to approve. Motion passed by voice vote, other.

**G** Request from Access to Independence to hold a Disability Pride Madison event on July 27, 2013 in Brittingham Park.

**Registered Speakers** in support: **Kate Moran** and **Jason Glozier**.

A motion was made by **Leopold**, seoncded by **Barker** to approve. Motion passed by voice vote, other.

**H** Cherokee Marsh Oak Savanna Restoration

**Russ Hefty**, Conservation Resources Supervisor, provided an overview of the project. The goal of the project is to merge two high quality prairie areas that are currently seperated by a buffer of trees. This buffer was initially seperating the Park from private property. Since the City has been able to acquire the additional land, it makes management sense to bring these areas together. This will have a positive impact on the landscape and wildlife. This project has support from the Friends group, and has been approved by the Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee.

A motion was made by **Clausius**, seconded by **Leopold** to approve. Motion passed by voice vote, other.

I To commemorate the 43rd anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, 2013, to proclaim April 26, 2013 and April 27, 2013 as Earth Day Challenge Days and endorsing and encouraging citizen participation in the clean-up events at City of Madison Parks. (All ADs)

**A motion was made by Leopold, seconded by Barker, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by voice vote/other.**

J To Declare the Week of April 21 through April 27 Arbor Week 2013 and to commemorate the City of Madison's 24th anniversary as a Tree City USA

**A motion was made by Leopold, seconded by Barker, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by voice vote/other.**

K Request from Clean Lakes Alliance for the use of Law Park for the Clean Lakes Festival on July 26th to July 28th, 2013.

**A motion was made by Leopold, seconded by Barker to approve. Motion passed by voice vote, other.**

#### VIII ADJOURNMENT

**A motion was made by Clear, seconded by Leopold to Adjourn at 9:17 P.M. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**