



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, December 13, 2023

6:30 PM

VIRTUAL

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was held virtually at 6:30PM on Wednesday, December 13, 2023. President Harrington called the meeting to order at 6:34PM. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed. Members Present: Ald. Yanette Figueroa Cole; Moira Harrington; Catie McDonald; Chandra Miller Fienen; Ald. Charles Myadze; Michelle Probst; and Ben Williams.

Parks Staff Present: Eric Knepp; Lisa Laschinger; CJ Ryan; Joanne Austin; and Ann Freiwald.

City Staff Present: Breana Collins and Urvashi Martin, Planning; Dan Johns, Real Estate; and Larry Kilmer and Lauren Andersen, Community Development Authority.

[80932](#)

Approval of the Minutes of the November 8, 2023 Board of Park Commissioners meeting

Motion made by Miller Fienen, seconded by Williams, to Approve the Minutes of the November 8, 2023 Board of Park Commissioners meeting. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

[80931](#)

Public Comment

There were no registrants for Public Comment.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

REPORTS

President of the Park Commission

President Harrington recognized Olbrich Botanical Gardens for their receipt of the Sylvia and Herb Frank Visionary Achievement award, and encouraged commissioners to attend their Holiday Express Model Train & Flower Show. Chandra Miller Fienen shared an update regarding a survey she is asking commissioners to complete before the next meeting.

[80967](#)

Approving Park Commission President Member Appointment to the Facilities, Programs and Fees Subcommittee of the Board of Park Commissioners

Motion made by Miller Fienen, seconded by Myadze, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO CONFIRM UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULE 2.055. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

[80971](#)

Approving Park Commission President Member Appointment to Madison Parks Foundation

Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Williams, to Approve. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

Superintendent of Parks

Assistant Superintendent Lisa Laschinger provided an overview of the Superintendent Report. The division has filled a significant number of vacancies, now down to only a handful, and will have a couple of people retiring in 2024. Seasonal changeover underway, not looking to open winter operations until after the first of the year due to unseasonably warm temperatures, will be sending out messaging regarding this. All-staff end of year celebration held today, great turnout of current staff and retirees.

[80960](#)

December 2023 Superintendent's Report

Parks Planning and Development Manager Ann Freiwald provided the Planning and Development quarterly report.

Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Figueroa Cole, to Accept the Report. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

[80962](#)

Report of the Minutes of the November 7, 2023 Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee and October 17, 2023 Olbrich Botanical Society.

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

NEW BUSINESS

[80987](#) Informational Presentation of the 2023 Summary Report on the Biergarten at Olbrich Park

Registrant Erik Kesting was neither in support nor opposition and was available to answer questions.

[80991](#) Approving Request from University of Wisconsin to allow the Urban Canid Project to continue for tenth year in Madison Parks

Registered speaker David Drake of the University of Wisconsin provided information about the project and answered questions.

Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Probst, to Approve the request. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

[80818](#) Authorizing the Mayor and the City Clerk to enter into a contract with Madison Metropolitan School District to use City athletic fields, parks and facilities for recreational activities and other community programming for the years of 2024-2028 (Citywide).

Assistant Superintendent CJ Ryan provided an overview of the partnership and renewal highlights.

Registered speaker Janet Dyer of MSCR was available to answer questions.

Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Miller Fienen to RETURN TO LEAD WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

[81108](#) Informational Presentation by Community Development Authority Regarding Potential Geothermal Concept in Brittingham Park as Part of CDA Triangle Redevelopment

Dan Johns of Community Development Authority provided an overview of the redevelopment project that is proposing utilizing Brittingham Park as a geothermal field for the development. Design team with Our Triangle Taking Shape (Registered speakers Dwight Shumm, Anne Morrison, Sarah Neujeuhr, and Tim Lentz) provided overview of the project and geothermal field.

Registered speaker John Phillip Guequierre of 350 Wisconsin spoke in support.

Registered speaker Peter Taglia spoke in support.

[80665](#)

Informational Presentation by City of Madison Planning Division regarding West Area Plan Planning Process

Breana Collins and Urvashi Martin of City Planning provided an overview of the West Area Plan Update and were available to answer questions.

Registered speaker Andrew Bent of Highlands Community Association spoke in opposition.

Registered speaker Faith Fitzpatrick spoke.

Registered speaker Jim Long spoke in opposition.

Registered speaker Gwen Long spoke in opposition.

Registered speaker Britta Wunderlich-Herr spoke in opposition.

Registered speaker Jenny Iskandar spoke in opposition.

Registrant Paul Herr was in opposition.

[80982](#)

Annual Statement of Interest Due

Commissioners were reminded to file their Statement of Interest forms.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Williams, seconded by Figueroa Cole, to Adjourn at 8:19 PM.

Motion passed by voice vote/other.