



City of Madison

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

Wednesday, April 13, 2011

6:30 PM 1625 Northport Dr. # (Warner Park Community Recreation
Center)

The regular meeting of the Madison Board of Park Commissioners was held on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Avenue. President Wallner called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Parks staff present: Superintendent Kevin Briski, Steve Doniger, Eric Knepp, Kay Rutledge, LaVonne LaFave
City staff present: Don Marx, Real Estate

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 5 -

Paul E. Skidmore; William W. Barker; David L. Wallner; Betty Chewning and Emanuel Scarbrough

Excused: 2 -

Madelyn D. Leopold and Joseph R. Clausius

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Chewning/Skidmore to approve the March 9, 2011 Minutes of the regular meeting of the Park Commission. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Registered speakers:

NAME	Issue
Joslyn Mink	Reporting on birds found in Warner Park
Christa Seidl	Reporting on birds found in Warner Park
Timothy Garrett	Relationship between Wild Warner and Park Commission

IV. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals by members of the Commission for any item on the agenda.

V. REPORTS

A. Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee Minutes of February 22, 2011 meeting

A motion was made by Barker/Scarborough to accept the Minutes of the February 22, 2011 meeting of the Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. A motion was made by Barker/Scarborough to approve the Tree Maintenance Priority Definitions for Request Work. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Olbrich Botanical Society Minutes of the January 18, 2011 meeting

A motion was made by Barker/Scarborough to accept the Minutes of the January 18, 2011 meeting of Olbrich Botanical Society. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Subcommittee Minutes of January 27, 2011 meeting

A motion was made by Barker/Scarborough to accept the Minutes of January 27, 2011 meeting of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Subcommittee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. President of the Park Commission

President Wallner reported on the Parks Volunteer event. Si Widstrand received the award for individual Volunteer of the year and the Friends of Yahara Parkway received the group volunteer of the year award. He also attended the public meeting on the John Nolen Task Force held recently at the Alliant Energy Center. Approximately 100 people were present to discuss the proposal and provided public input.

The Parks Foundation has been meeting to discuss the role of the Foundation and its future. They will be holding a retreat in June. Grant Frautschi is the new president.

Earth Day is April 22, 2011 and he invited the audience to participate in Earth Day events.

Joanne Walker was recognized for her 10 years of service as President of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Subcommittee.

E. Superintendent of Parks

1. [22009](#) Written Report of Supervisor's Activities

A motion was made by Skidmore/Scarborough to accept the written report of Supervisor's Activities. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Informational Items

Superintendent Briski seconded Scarborough's statement regarding Olbrich Gardens. It is exciting to see all the activities and parks filled with people enjoying themselves. Parks staff are also excited to get back outside into the parks following indoor winter duties. There will be a tree planting ceremony on Friday at Warner Park with local elementary school students in recognition of Earth Day. All events are listed on our website as well as listed in the Parks newsletter that is sent out electronically.

Parks staff received over 1000 responses to the Park and Open Space Plan survey that was available on-line as well as via a hard copy that was available at the libraries and community centers in the city. A new intern is evaluating the data and when the results of the survey have been compiled they will be presented first to the Long Range Planning Subcommittee and then brought to the Park Commission sometime this summer. Each park and master plan is being evaluated by Parks staff.

Goose Management Update

Goose management techniques have been integrated at several locations throughout the city in the last several months. Russ Hefty has conducted waterfowl counts at goose populated parks this past summer and fall and is now doing them this spring. The Division did apply for and receive permission from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to oil eggs. Staff has also carried out vegetation plantings around water and altered mowing patterns around water.

Parks will present Hefty's report to the Park Commission in May. It will review management strategies and options. A series of public input sessions has been held with the final one scheduled for Wednesday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m. at Goodman Maintenance Facility.

Commissioners noted they were trying to understand the situation between Wild Warner and Hefty. They expressed concern that Wild Warner members have not been included. They have all been receiving e-mails from them regarding the lack of two-way communication between Parks staff and their group. Posting meeting notices is not the same as meeting with their group.

Superintendent Briski noted the public meetings have been posted; he has personally attended a Wild Warner meeting and has had ongoing conversations with folks from Wild Warner. He acknowledged that there has not been a one-on-one meeting between Wild Warner and Hefty; however, members from Wild Warner have been present at the public meetings. Information from Wild Warner has been forwarded to Hefty and he has incorporated their suggestions into his plan. Hefty has had communications with members of Wild Warner, but there has not been a one-on-one meeting

between him and specific members of Wild Warner. Hefty has spent his time researching the issue and working in the field. He has communicated directly with some members of Wild Warner but perhaps that hasn't been communicated between other members of the group. The data that has been supplied to the Park Commission by Wild Warner has been shared with Hefty and will be incorporated in the report.

Staff want to bring all of the information to the Park Commission. They will be recommending the creation of an ad hoc committee comprised of members from the UW, Wild Warner, a Park Commissioner, and any other organization the Commission suggests, as well as Parks staff. The committee will review the report and come back to the Park Commission with a series of recommendations for future goose management. Commissioners also suggested that people concerned about airplane safety, soccer players, and golfers also be represented at these meetings. It was also brought forward that when people speak the Commission needs to know if people speaking are representing the official position of an organization or are speaking as concerned individuals.

Superintendent Briski added that he hasn't yet been able to meet with Mayor Soglin on this particular issue to determine his direction for goose management. He will forward the report to the Mayor and then talk with him about it.

Chewning asked that the problems associated with potential plans for parking at the Garver North Platte be placed on a future agenda. She asked that the Park Commission discuss the issue of additional land being taken away from natural uses because Olbrich Botanical Society will not share its parking.

Management of Open Space

Superintendent Briski reported he is meeting with Si Widstrand tomorrow to discuss financial issues and staffing levels related to the management of open space that was presented in March. When he first started, Widstrand brought up these management proposals. There are some volunteer processes in place that are handled by our Volunteer Coordinator. Parks hopes to build a group of volunteers based on Widstrand's expertise and his immense volunteerism in the conservation parks. Parks also hopes to address some of these issues in next year's budget process.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. [21986](#) To Declare the Week of April 24 through April 30 ARBOR WEEK 2011 and to commemorate the City of Madison's 22nd anniversary as a Tree City USA

This Resolution was RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER A motion was made by Skidmore/Chewning to approve Resolution ID#21986 To Declare the Week of April 24 through April 30 ARBOR WEEK 2011 and to commemorate the City of Madison's 22nd anniversary as a Tree City USA. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- B. [21849](#) Authorizing the execution of a Purchase and Sale Agreement between the City of Madison and Research Products Corporation, for property located at 204 South Ingersoll Street for the proposed Central Park and the funding of costs associated with the stabilization of the property.

This Resolution was Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. Due back on 5/9/2011.

Barker reported that when the initial report by the Central Park Committee was prepared it identified the Research Products parcel as a nice addition to the park if it became available in the future. He credited Research Products for their belief in the park in making this parcel available. There will be some work involved in putting the property in a condition to be used for park purposes. The city hopes to close on the parcel in August and Research Products will vacate the property by September 15. The demolition would occur in 2012. The project is viewed as a joint Parks and Engineering endeavor.

A motion was made by Chewing/Skidmore to approve Resolution ID#21849 Authorizing the execution of a Purchase and Sale Agreement between the City of Madison and Research Products Corporation, for property located at 204 South Ingersoll Street for the proposed Central Park and the funding of costs associated with the stabilization of the property. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- C. [21638](#) Authorizing the execution of an Underground Electric Line Easement to Madison Gas and Electric Company across a portion of Droster Park, located at 1429 Droster Road.

This Resolution was RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER

A motion was made by Barker/Scarborough to approve Resolution ID# 21638 Authorizing the execution of an Underground Electric Line Easement to Madison Gas and Electric Company across a portion of Droster Park, located at 1429 Droster Road. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Clausius arrived following his Neighborhood Association meeting.

- D. [21852](#) Authorizing the execution of a temporary construction easement to the County of Dane to allow for the County's construction of a public pedestrian/bicycle path across lands within Baxter Park, located at 777 Engelhart Drive, and across the Stormwater Utility parcel located at 909 Lorena Parkway.

This Resolution was RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER

A motion was made by Clausius/Scarborough to approve Resolution ID#21852 Authorizing the execution of a temporary construction easement to the County

of Dane to allow for the County's construction of a public pedestrian/bicycle path across lands within Baxter Park, located at 777 Engelhart Drive, and across the Stormwater Utility parcel located at 909 Lorena Parkway. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- E. [22010](#) Request to use Trust Account Funds for specific 2011 Capital Projects

A motion was made by Scarbrough/Clausius to approve the use of Trust Account Funds for specific 2011 Capital Projects.

Eric Knepp, Administrative and Financial Services Manager, reported that the list was submitted to the Board to show what funds are being held for the benefit of the Parks Division and identify the types of projects they can be used for. Specific questions were asked about the McClellan Dodge fund. Barker cautioned the Commissioners on the use of the trust funds because they are funds of last resort. In the past several years funds have been used for specific projects at the pool, the spray park and for electricity for the Brittingham boathouse. Superintendent Briski added that approval to use those funds has always been sought from the Long Range Planning Subcommittee before bringing the request to the Park Commission. They have been used sparingly and staff generally recommend only the use of the interest earned on those accounts. A brief review of the various accounts indicated that several have very specific restrictions.

Commissioners asked that Parks research whether it is possible to combine the funds legally since a larger pool of money could earn a better investment interest rate.

There was a short explanation regarding what materials would make accessible playground surfaces ADA compliant; ground up rubber tires is permissible while crushed gravel is not. In response to a question regarding whether the tires provided any runoff that would affect the lakes it was noted that Parks research did not uncover any issues.

The motion was restated: A motion was made by Scarbrough/Clausius to approve the use of Trust Account Funds for specific 2011 Capital Projects. Roll Call vote – Yeas – Scarbrough, Clausius, Wallner; Nays – Barker, Chewning, Skidmore. MOTION FAILED

A motion was made by Scarbrough/Clausius to take VI. J. out of order. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- J. [22015](#) Request from Marie Jacobson regarding diving platform at B.B. Clarke

At last month's meeting concern was raised about the elimination of the diving platform at B.B. Clarke Beach. Parks staff reviewed Madison's beach depths to determine whether the platform could be moved to a different location and determined that no other beach had sufficient depths for the platform as required by state codes. Following discussions with Engineering and Risk Management it was determined that if the Park Commission directed the

installation of the platform at B.B. Clarke this summer, it could be reinstalled. Parks would provide additional training to lifeguards at that beach on the appropriate technique to provide access to the platform. Engineering indicated they were OK with that process. Parks will monitor the activity as a test to determine if the boom holds up and whether there is any effect in the clarity of the water within the enclosed area. Risk Management was willing to allow the project as a test. Parks believes that with appropriate training on how to move back and forth it will be a safe environment for the lifeguards. Concern was raised about approving it for the entire year and it was asked if the approval could be flexible, so that if water clarity diminishes or it becomes dangerous, the issue could be revisited. Parks staff will report monthly on conditions at the beach.

Registered Speakers:

Richard Lathrop	neutral
Marie Jacobson	Support Reinstallation
Ben Converse	Support Reinstallation
Stuart Fass	Support Reinstallation
Mason Martinez	Support Reinstallation
Paige Callen	Support Reinstallation
Alexie Callen	Support Reinstallation
Isaac H. Cwik	Support Reinstallation
Francine Hartman	Support Reinstallation
Henry DeMarco	Support Reinstallation
Ceci DeMarco Letter	Support Reinstallation

Commissioners thanked the young people for coming to the meeting and for speaking to bring back the diving platform. They were cautioned to police themselves to make sure someone doesn't do something to force the removal of the platform.

A motion was made by Barker/Chewning to reinstate the diving platform at B.B. Clarke beach. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

F. [22011](#)

Request of Yuriy Gusev, Executive and Athletic Director of Central Cross Country Ski Association, Community Olympic Development Program to allow a special use permit for the use of air rifles for the 2012 International Paralympic Committee Cross Country Ski/Biathlon World Cup between January 25 and January 29, 2012 at Elver Park.

Doniger stated that the request is actually for January 20 thru January 30, 2012. It is a unique opportunity for Madison. It will require the approval of the Chief of Police for the use of the air rifles. Gusev provided an explanation of the event and stated that the targets and drop cloths would contain the spent ammunition. The area where shooting will take place will be fenced to protect the public.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Barker to approve the Request of Yuriy Gusev, Executive and Athletic Director of Central Cross Country Ski Association, Community Olympic Development Program to allow a special use

permit for the use of air rifles for the 2012 International Paralympic Committee Cross Country Ski/Biathlon World Cup between January 20 and January 30, 2012 at Elver Park subject to organizer's compliance with all conditions..
MOTION CARRIED with Chewing abstaining.

- G. [22012](#) Request of Carrie Dainty and Joey Dunscombe (Weary Traveler) to host the Alt Brat Fest at Orton Park on Sunday, May 29, 2011.

Registered Speakers, all in support:

**Carrie Dainty
Joseph Dunscombe
Marlene Hardick**

A motion was made by Chewing/Barker to approve the Request of Carrie Dainty and Joey Dunscombe (Weary Traveler) to host the Alt Brat Fest at Orton Park on Sunday, May 29, 2011 subject to organizer's compliance with all conditions..

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

A ten minute recess was taken. The Commission returned to session at 8:34 p.m.

Members present: Bill Barker, Betty Chewing, Ald. Joe Clausius, Emanuel Scarbrough, Ald. Paul Skidmore, and David Wallner

Members excused: Madelyn Leopold

- H. [22013](#) Request by C Murphy to install a BLINK! Art project entitled "Hide and Go Seek" along John Nolen Drive from April 18, 2011 thru mid-June 2011.

Registered Speaker:

Chris Murphy, in support

A motion was made by Scarbrough/Skidmore to approve the Request by C Murphy to install a BLINK! Art project entitled "Hide and Go Seek" along John Nolen Drive from April 18, 2011 thru mid-June 2011 subject to organizer's compliance with all conditions. Further, Parks staff will check with police to determine whether they have any concerns. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A motion was made by Scarbrough/Barker to take item N out of order. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- N. [22017](#) Water, Sustainability and Climate project by Eric Booth, Limnology & Marine Science UW at Cherokee Marsh

Registered Speaker:

Eric Booth, in support

The project will utilize a model of the land cover types throughout the watershed to show how water infiltration is dependent on land type. It will also be used to determine how land use changes will affect lake water quality and levels. Booth is working with Russ Hefty to determine proper placement of the equipment.

A motion was made by Barker/Chewning to approve the Water, Sustainability and Climate project by Eric Booth, Limnology & Marine Science UW at Cherokee Marsh. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A motion was made by Clausius/Skidmore to take items K and L out of order. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- K. [21987](#) To authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into a one (1) year Agreement between the City of Madison and D. L. Anderson Company beginning on April 15, 2011 and ending on October 31, 2011 for the use of docking facilities to provide lake access at Marshall, Olbrich, Olin and Warner Parks.

This Resolution was Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. Due back on 5/9/2011.

A motion was made by Clausius/Barker to approve Resolution ID#21987 To authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into a one (1) year Agreement between the City of Madison and D. L. Anderson Company beginning with the signing of the Lease Agreement and ending on October 31, 2011 for the use of docking facilities to provide lake access at Marshall, Olbrich, Olin and Warner Parks. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- L. [21988](#) To authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into a one (1) year Agreement between the City of Madison and Deano Dock and Lift, LLC. beginning April 15, 2011 and ending on October 31, 2011 for the use of docking facilities to provide lake access at Marshall, Warner and Olin Parks.

This Resolution was Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. Due back on 5/9/2011.

A motion was made by Clausius/Barker to approve Resolution ID#21988 To authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into a one (1) year Agreement between the City of Madison and Deano Dock beginning with the signing of the Lease Agreement and ending on October 31, 2011 for the use of docking facilities to provide lake access at Marshall, Olbrich, Olin and Warner Parks. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- I. [22014](#) Request by Team Magnus/Luke Batchelor-Clark and Christopher Berge to hold the second Wizzard Cross at Warner Park on October 15-16, 2011.

Doniger reported that following lots of conversations with the organizers this was a unique first time event last year. The event itself worked well but there were issues that occurred in the park both before and after the event that need

to be addressed. Because of those issues, Parks staff are bringing the request before the Park Commission for recommendation. Additional research was conducted on this type of event and the results were included in Board packets. Off road biking opportunities are found in Dane County at CamRock and Badger Prairie Parks, at Sheehan Park in Sun Prairie, Quarry Park in Madison, and other parks in the area. The municipalities where this type of event has been held were contacted and they had positive comments about the events. In addition to the conditions which would be similar in scope to those from last year the Park Commission has been provided with the Madison ordinances that address bicycling in city parks. The sponsors agree they will be responsible if people use the course both before and after the event. After the packets were sent out, the alder submitted additional conditions that will be incorporated into Parks list of conditions.

A map showing the proposed route was distributed. The sponsors indicated if Warner is not approved, they would prefer another eastside park.

Registered Speakers:

Boaz Fink Oppose
Luke Batchelor-Clark Support
Christopher Berge Support
Trish O’Kane Oppose
Sandy Rezvani Oppose
Jim Carrier Oppose
Marlene Hardick Oppose
Timothy Garrett Oppose
Dolores Kester Oppose

In response to questioning by Commissioners, the sponsors indicated that what they are looking for is an eastside park with grass and some type of hill, and preferably a location with restroom facilities available. Warner is an ideal park because of parking, topography, the existing trails and the shelter. Heistand Park would be possible but there would be conflict with the disc golfers. Olin would be the best alternative but the conservation supervisor can’t visualize that the event could be held without going into the sensitive protected areas. Reindahl is too flat and it would be a dull event.

A motion was made by Scarbrough/Skidmore to approve the request by Team Magnus/Luke Batchelor-Clark and Christopher Berge to hold the second Wizzard Cross at Warner Park on October 15-16, 2011 (for discussion).

Commissioners noted that earlier in the meeting two young people presented a list of birds found in Warner Park. They read the Alder’s letter, listened to the speakers and reviewed the information provided. Based on what they believe is best for this area of the park and taking into consideration that there is a natural area not found anyplace else, they felt it was not appropriate for bikes to ride through that natural area. There are other locations that could be used for this race. This is an area where kids can get in touch with the natural world and examine the biodiversity found there, allowing them to figure out our relationship to the natural world.

Conservation parks are held sacred with more stringent standards applied to them. Between conservation areas and active recreation areas there needs to

be another type of designated natural area that is a place for kids to play and come in contact with nature. This would be an area where they could get off a trail to observe nature, handle rocks or search for different types of birds, trees, fungi, etc.

Commissioners acknowledged that last year they felt the race was suitable as a one day event, but they found out people were practicing before and after the race, and that was not acceptable. The impact on this portion of the park and other users was greater than they anticipated. They suggested that if the sponsors want to hold the race again, they should locate another venue for the event.

The motion was restated: A motion was made by Scarbrough/Skidmore to approve the request by Team Magnus/Luke Batchelor-Clark and Christopher Berge to hold the second Wizzard Cross at Warner Park on October 15-16, 2011. MOTION FAILED UNANIMOUSLY.

M. [22016](#)

Request by County Executive Kathleen Falk and Mayor Dave Cieslewicz to dedicate a section of the Cherokee Marsh land in memory of Harold "Bud" Jordahl.

A motion was made by Barker/Scarbrough to refer the Request by County Executive Kathleen Falk and Mayor Dave Cieslewicz to dedicate a section of the Cherokee Marsh land in memory of Harold "Bud" Jordahl to the Long Range Planning Subcommittee/Naming. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Barker/Scarbrough the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.