



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

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, June 11, 2025

6:30 PM

VIRTUAL

1 CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was held virtually at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, June 11, 2025. President Miller Fienen called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.
Members Present: Moira Harrington; Catie McDonald; Chandra Miller Fienen; Michelle Probst; and Ben Williams.
Members Excused: Ald. Derek Field; and Ald. Carmella Glenn.
Parks Staff Present: Lisa Laschinger; CJ Ryan; Joanne Austin; Tanya Zastrow; and Travis Miller.
City Staff Present: Karen Kapusta-Pofahl (Common Council Office).

2 [88476](#) Approval of the Minutes of the May 14, 2025 Board of Park Commissioners meeting.

Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Probst, to Approve the Minutes of the May 14, 2025 Board of Park Commissioners meeting. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

3 [88475](#) Public Comment

Registered speaker Christopher Hovel of Tenney Lapham Neighborhood Association spoke about buoys at City beaches.

4 DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

Michelle Probst recused herself from Agenda Item #17.

REPORTS

5 [88756](#) President of the Park Commission June 2025 Report

President Miller Fienen presented the Trust for Public Land Score and discussed why our ranking has been trending downward.

6 [88610](#) Approving Park Commission President Resident Appointments to the Subcommittees of the Board of Park Commissioners

Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Probst, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULE 2.055. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

7 Superintendent of Parks

Interim Superintendent Lisa Laschinger complimented the operations team, highlighting Forest Hill Cemetery staff's preparation for Memorial Day. Capital budget has been submitted and will be published in September. Common Council is holding public engagement meetings. American Family Insurance Championship golf tournament went well. Parks Alive began last night. The Goodman Pool opens tomorrow and the Pool staff was recognized for all they do. There is still time to sign up to volunteer for Ride the Drive on August 10th.

8 [88542](#) June 2025 Superintendent's Report

Obrich Botanical Gardens Director Tanya Zastro presented the Olbrich Gardens report.

Motion made by Probst, seconded by Harrington, to Accept the Report. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

9 [88478](#) Approval of the Report of the May 7, 2025 Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee and May 13, 2025 Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee

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

10 NEW BUSINESS

Motion made by Probst, seconded by Williams, to Approve by Consent Agenda No. 12 , Legislative File No. 88603; No. 13, Legislative File No. 88598; and No. 19, Legislative File No. 88526. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

The Commission took up Agenda Item No. 20, Legislative File No. 88691 next.

11 [88628](#) Confirming location and format of the Board of Park Commissioners August 13, 2025 meeting

Motion made by Harrington, seconded by McDonald, to have the August 13th Park Commission meeting Virtual. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

12* [88603](#) Declaring July 2025 as "Park and Recreation Month" in the City of Madison and recognizing the benefits that Madison parks provide for recreational opportunities and preservation of public lands.

Motion made by Probst, seconded by Williams, to Approve the Proclamation. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

13* [88598](#) Review of Events Administratively Approved by Staff

Motion made by Probst, seconded by Williams, to Accept the Reprot. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

14 [88690](#) Nature Everywhere Initiative Update

Program Manager Autumn Demet of Aldo Leopold Nature Center gave the Nature Everywhere Initiative update.

- 15 [87483](#) Adopting the Updated Elected and Appointed Official Code of Ethical Conduct
- Common Council Chief of Staff Kapusta-Pofahl gave an overview of the updated policy. This applies to both Park Commission and subcommittees.
- Motion made by Harrington, seconded by McDonald, to RETURN TO LEAD WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL TO THE COMMON COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Motion passed by voice vote/other.
- 16 [88536](#) Informational Presentation from Staff Regarding Planning for the future of Olbrich Botanical Gardens with the completion of a comprehensive master plan.
- Zastrow presented the plan.
- 17 [88451](#) Authorizing the City to Execute the First Amendment to Lease Agreements, Future Easements and a Stormwater Agreement with Dane County Pertaining to Yahara Hills Golf Course and the Future Landfill. (District 16)
- Laschinger provided a brief overview of the Lease Amendments.
- Motion passed by Williams, seconded by Harrington, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. Motion passed by voice vote/other.
- 18 [88647](#) Informational Presentation on Parks Athletic Field Maintenance Program.
- Parks Athletics Leadworker Travis Miller gave a presentation on the athletic field maintenance program.
- 19* [88526](#) Approving Request from Parks Division Staff to Rename the Madison Senior Center Courtyard to Capitol Centre Park
- Motion made by Probst, seconded by Williams, to Approve the Request. Motion passed by voice vote/other.
- 20 [88691](#) Approving Request from Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance to install sound collection devices at Warner Park
- The Commission took up this item after Agenda No. 10, NEW BUSINESS.
- Registered speaker Scott Pigg of Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance spoke in support.
- Registered speaker Beth Sluys spoke in support.
- Registrant Del Hansen was in support.
- Registrant Marsha Cannon was in support.
- Motion made by Williams, seconded by Probst, to Approve the Request. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

- 21 [88692](#) Informational Presentation from staff on the Parks Open Space Plan (POSP)

Laschinger presented the POSP update.

22 **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Williams, to Adjourn at 9:18 PM.

Motion passed by voice vote/other.