



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Approved BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday, February 9, 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, February 9, 2011 at Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Avenue. President Wallner called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Parks staff present: Superintendent Kevin Briski, Steve Doniger, LaVonne LaFave
City staff present: Jerry Lund, Real Estate Agent, Planning Dept.

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 7 -

Madelyn D. Leopold; Joseph R. Clausius; Paul E. Skidmore; William W. Barker; David L. Wallner; Betty Chewning and Emanuel Scarbrough

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Skidmore/Chewning to approve the January 12, 2011 Minutes of the regular meeting of the Park Commission. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Registered speakers:

NAME	Issue
Dolores Kester	The POSP survey process
Trish O'Kane	"" ""

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 November 9, 2010 meeting

A motion was made by Leopold/Skidmore to accept the Minutes of the November 9, 2010 meeting of the Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Long Range Planning Subcommittee Minutes of November 29, 2010 meeting

A motion was made by Clausius/Skidmore to accept the Minutes of the November 29, 2010 meeting of the Long Range Planning Subcommittee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

In regard to the statement about the two different methods suggested for parking in parks parking lots, a comment was made that both tickets to keep people from parking in the lots and selling permits to allow parking be considered. President Wallner reported this issue has been discussed at the last couple of meetings and a proposal will be brought forward to the subcommittee this spring. Once it has been acted on by the subcommittee it will be forwarded to the Park Commission for approval.

C. [21284](#) Olbrich Botanical Society Minutes of December 21, 2010 Meeting

A motion was made by Barker/Skidmore to accept the Minutes of the December 21, 2010 meeting of the Olbrich Botanical Society. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Subcommittee Minutes of December 2, 2010 meeting

A motion was made by Clausius/Scarborough to accept the Minutes of the December 2, 2010 meeting of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Subcommittee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. President of the Park Commission

President Wallner suggested that members attend the upcoming committee/commission staff training.

President Wallner made the following appointments to the various subcommittees of the Park Commission:

Long Range Planning and Names Subcommittee – Clausius and Barker.
Facilities, Programs and Fees – Skidmore and Wallner
Habitat Stewardship/Tree Board - Leopold
Golf - Scarbrough
Warner Park Community Recreation Center - Skidmore
Olbrich Botanical Society - Scarbrough
Two Appointments to the Madison Parks Foundation - Clausius and Leopold
Community Gardens Committee - Chewning

He reported that he attended a very good two-hour retreat for Madison Parks Foundation members that was very productive regarding the direction for the Foundation. He is also serving on the Committee for the John Nolen Drive Centennial Project.

He then noted that the Long Range Planning Subcommittee, of which he is a member, had reviewed the survey prior to its dissemination as well as the approximately 700 responses that had thus far been received. Members suggested that more user groups be contacted to obtain a more diverse point of view.

Chewning advised that the city's Community Garden Committee would be contacting the Central Park Committee regarding their desire for additional space for community gardens.

Barker added that he continues to serve as chair of the Central Park Committee. There will be a public meeting on March 2 at the Research Products offices to discuss art in the public spaces.

Finally, Chewning noted the photos of alternatives to traditional benches used by the University of Minnesota show that you can move away from block benches and enhance landscaping.

F. Superintendent of Parks

[21285](#)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - JANUARY ACTIVITIES, 2011

Written Report

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

2. Informational Items

Superintendent Briski stated that the Madison Parks Newsletter will be distributed electronically in the next week or so. The January employee of the month name will be announced next month. The Volunteer Recognition Event

will be March 14 at Olbrich Botanical Gardens. Information will be forthcoming. More than 200 people attended the event last year. The Friends of Olin Turville (FOOT) will meet on February 14. There will be a luminary ski event at Olin this coming Friday night.

The Parks Division and the Friends of Tenney Park are coordinating an event "Farewell to Tenney" for Saturday, February 12. The funding goals have been met and the event will also recognize the naming of the Pavilion. The community can come together to say good bye to the old shelter and share personal memories. Tiles will also be available for sale that day.

Superintendent Briski then briefly addressed the survey. Parks has now received well over 900 responses together with many with significant comments that are being reviewed. Parks will look into the problems with downloading the documents because that is not something that we want. It is important that people be able to locate and download the Comprehensive Plan and survey. It will be difficult to get information from passive users of the parks because they are not organized users but we need to find a way to gather their input. Parks is reaching out to neighborhood centers and the Department of Civil Rights to get information from people they serve. Suggestions were made for additional groups to contact that included libraries, children, Wisconsin Youth and Family Center, Boys and Girls Club, and locations in south Madison.

The POSP needs to be in place when we submit grants for various types of funding. The data collection is occurring now and it is possible to extend the deadline beyond February 15. The staff analysis will take a couple of months following the end of the survey. One of the issues is to get a representative sampling of users and it was noted that what you are looking for will determine who you ask. It was also acknowledged that certain users will not venture out in the cold or at night. The public meetings and survey are done during this time of year because during the spring, summer and fall, the Planning section is extremely busy. Commissioners acknowledged that the weather, the time of year, and the fact that people are busy are all factors in responses and it could also be that people are happy with what is happening in parks. However they would feel better if there was more advertising as well as more effort to reach minority groups.

Parks staff have been promoting the survey heavily to obtain a large survey sample. Superintendent Briski noted this is the first time that Parks has done a survey at this level for the POSP. There were approximately 12 to 15 people at the first public meeting, about 6 to 8 at the second meeting and the third meeting is scheduled for tomorrow at WPCRC. While they would feel more comfortable if the meetings were better attended he knows they have been well publicized. At this point there isn't a new plan for people to comment on. The current plan will be revised to incorporate the information we receive.

The 2001-2005 Plan was incorporated into the city's Comprehensive Plan. However, the addendum and staff analysis of the public meetings did not get included into that document. The portion that was included in the city's Comp Plan was sufficient to qualify for state and federal funding. The Long Range Planning Subcommittee received the chapters from that Comp Plan and thought it would be presented to the Park Commission in March. At this point it may be moved to later in spring.

Skidmore stated he has participated in dozens of these types of plans throughout the state and this is the time of year when user survey information is obtained. Very few people come to public meetings unless they “have a bone to pick.” This is a typical process and he doesn’t believe the Parks Division is doing anything wrong. It would be good to get copies of the plan and survey into the libraries and community centers.

A question was posed as to whether the same type of contact attempt was made with other users as was made with athletic users. It was suggested that April or May would be a better time to do a sampling of users in parks who are there not for any organized activity, and are probably under-represented. Superintendent Briski responded that part of the process is to meet the state criteria in contacting the various user groups in our system. He added that we have never gotten this type of input before. Staff is listening and reaching out by extending the deadline for the survey. In addition to the public meetings, staff expanded outreach with the survey to ask more people for input.

President Wallner noted that the passive activities, such as walking and using the dog parks and conservation parks, rated very highly on the survey.

A suggestion was also made that input be obtained to determine how we can structure park usage to eliminate the behavioral issues that have been seen in some parks. Chewing added that the UW has a Survey Research Center and thought they would assist us for free and help us identify how to best collect the data for the questions we want answered.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. [21286](#) Vern Stenman President of Madison Mallards information regarding 2011 Fan Access Plan and Neighborhood Impact Plan

Registered Speaker:

NAME	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Vern Stenman – available for questions		XX

Superintendent Briski noted that the Parks Division recommends approval of the Plans.

A motion was made Skidmore/Barker to approve the request of Vern Stenman President of Madison Mallards information regarding 2011 Fan Access Plan and Neighborhood Impact Plan. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A motion was made by Skidmore/Barker to take items C, D, F and G out of order. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.** A motion was made by Scarbrough/Clausius to separate G. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- [21132](#) Authorizing the execution of Private Storm Sewer Easement to Yahara Square Associates LLP across a portion of a Yahara Parkway parcel located at 1 South Thornton Avenue.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Barker to approve Resolution ID#21132 authorizing the execution of Private Storm Sewer Easement to Yahara Square Associates LLP across a portion of a Yahara Parkway parcel located at 1 South Thornton Avenue. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21013

Authorizing the execution of an Agreement for Installation Operation, Maintenance and Repair of Photovoltaic System with Madison Gas and Electric Company for the installation of a demonstration photovoltaic system at Olbrich Botanical Gardens, located at 3330 Atwood Avenue.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Barker to approve Resolution ID#21013 Authorizing the execution of an Agreement for Installation Operation, Maintenance and Repair of Photovoltaic System with Madison Gas and Electric Company for the installation of a demonstration photovoltaic system at Olbrich Botanical Gardens, located at 3330 Atwood Avenue. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21287

Request of Nick Schweitzer to place a timeline in Rennebohm Park in April and May 2011 and to reinstall the first two signs of the Planet Trek Dane County solar system in Law Park from March through October 2011.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Barker to approve the request of Nick Schweitzer to place a timeline in Rennebohm Park in April and May 2011 and to reinstall the first two signs of the Planet Trek Dane County solar system in Law Park from March through October 2011. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21288

Request of Andria Huskinson of Ragnar Events to use Olin Turville Park on June 10, 2011 to host a relay race beginning in Madison, WI and ending in Chicago, entitled Ragnar Relay Chicago. (ADs 13 & 14)

A request was made to ask the sponsor to change the name to the Ragnar Relay Madison to Chicago. It was noted that Parks is not sponsoring the event; they are just renting our facility but we will ask whether Madison could be added to the name.

A motion was made by Scarbrough/Skidmore to approve the request of Andria Huskinson of Ragnar Events to use Olin Turville Park on June 10, 2011 to host a relay race beginning in Madison, WI and ending in Chicago, entitled Ragnar Relay Chicago. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Nolen Centennial Project

Nolen Centennial Project

**Registered Speaker:
Tim Metcalf, in support presenting**

Metcalf presented the plan he has been working on for the John Nolen Drive corridor. It began with the question of what is the plan for Olin Turville Park. Over the past several months, his concept for corridor has been presented to different community leaders, culminating in the creation of a task force of 17 people to fully vet the idea. The task force includes the President of the Park Commission, Superintendent of Parks, DMI President and other community leaders with environmental and business expertise who held their first meeting two weeks ago. The task force is still looking for a "resident at large" to be appointed by the Mayor. A grant application has also been submitted to the Madison Community Foundation.

A PowerPoint presentation entitled Helping Madison Evolve into The Model City was then shown. Metcalf was interested in obtaining feedback that would include comments and concerns about the project. He recognized that there is incredible biking in this area. Our bicycle system is recognized outside of our community. Madison could become a North American biking capital. Part of the impetus for unveiling this project now is that it is John Nolen's centennial this year. The UW has invested over \$2.7 billion in infrastructure in the last 10 years along the Park Street corridor. There is also an urban technology park on East Washington. The next big piece for Madison may well be to finish building the southeast corridor of Madison into a seamless lakefront park and expo center. It could become a downtown playground with more than 400 acres of public land and 2 miles of lakefront providing an incredible view of downtown.

John Olin started the park system in Madison and drew a park along this corridor. John Nolen continued that concept, Frank Lloyd Wright was always dabbling at buildings for this corridor and Wesley Peters redrew it in 1967. It is an idea that's right for today and would capitalize on the Nolen Plan centennial, a North American bike capital, the World Dairy Expo, a model healthy city supporting both park safety and lake health.

The concept proposes an active, inspiring approach to downtown with many visual attributes that include an accessible lakeside trail for biking, running and walking with lookouts so people can stop to enjoy the view. The trail would have poles that mimic Monona Terrace features. There would be a barrier to separate the trail from vehicular traffic. It would be a destination with a world class view providing lake access and educational components. While city and county officials know what's going on with our lakes, most residents do not. A lake access educational center could teach residents how to take care of inland lake waters. The center could also celebrate some of our past leaders from Wisconsin

Different suggestions were made about how to connect people back to the lakes. A nature education center could be located in Olin Turville with a location to eat, or rent a bike or kayak. Across the road is the Alliant Energy Center and Coliseum that host conventions, meetings, concerts and outdoor events. The concept of a vibrant cultural destination with a capital view amphitheater in a natural bowl was mentioned. An outdoor living classroom comprised of walking trails and the beautiful prairie at Olin Turville and a bike trail along the lakefront were also mentioned as visitor destinations that would cause any inappropriate uses to go away.

There are many activities on each side of the Drive but it is difficult to cross

John Nolen Drive safely. A land bridge was suggested as a means to connect them into safe unified event grounds. It would be an inspiring parkway that could promote events going on Downtown and at the Alliant Energy Center which he felt was an important part of this project. There are great parcels of land on both sides of the Drive but they are all segregated.

In closing he asked the Park Commission to think of this concept as Madison's urban playground that will help retain and attract events such as the World Dairy Expo, Paddle and Portage, Ironman and other international events. This would become an international showcase for our state and a magnet for world-class events, providing new development and increasing the tax base. There has been one meeting to gather public input. He noted that these are all ideas and the county, state and city, including the Park Commission, would be the political bodies that would have to approve any of these concepts within this corridor.

President Wallner commended Metcalf for his efforts in putting this concept together. It is an exciting idea. Commissioners asked how the naturalness of that crown jewel would be retained and how to enlist people from the neighborhood who are longtime advocates for that area. It was noted that the alders and county supervisors are serving on the Task Force. Metcalf also has a meeting with the Bay Creek Neighborhood Association and with Friends of Olin Turville. He understands that public input is critical for this project and also understands that the preservation of the shoreline is critical.

Currently the project stops at the Convention Center but it would be logical to continue it down to Williamson Street. At this point the project does not include the concept of the Frank Lloyd Wright boathouse. Questions were also asked about how these 400 acres would be connected to the Downtown as we look at this as an entrance to Madison. People attending conventions feel totally detached from what's occurring Downtown. The causeway could be one of the most spectacular views coming into Madison especially since the Parks Division and the South District Police have worked at Olin Turville to clear out the invasive species and open the view of the lake. Olin Turville Point is a gem that few people see. It is a beautiful and ambitious project. So much of the city is getting built up but the Park Commission wants to preserve its natural areas. Metcalf responded that they want to be sensitive to the natural areas but he feels the lake center/nature center is an important component.

E. Tenney Park Pavilion Naming

Registered Speaker:

Mary Lang Sollinger in support

Lang Sollinger stated she was representing the John Wall Family and presented the last payment of \$125,000 to the Park Commission. The total donation from the John Wall Family was \$250,000 in consideration of allowing them to present a name for the new shelter. The name is the John Wall Family Pavilion located in Tenney Park. The design for the new shelter/pavilion has been presented to the Plan Commission, Urban Design and the Parks Foundation. Recognition was also given to the Tenney Lapham neighborhood for their hard work in fundraising for this new pavilion.

A motion was made by Barker/Clausius to accept the name "John Wall Family Pavilion" for the new shelter in Tenney Park. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.** President Wallner thanked both the Wall family for their generous donation and Lang Sollinger for her hard work. An invitation was then made to join the neighborhood on Saturday, February 12, for the Farewell Toast to Tenney to say good bye to the old shelter and share personal memories. Barker also thanked Lang Sollinger for her comments on how well the city process worked.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Barker/Clausius the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.