



# City of Madison

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

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Wednesday, July 13, 2011

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

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The regular meeting of the Madison Board of Park Commissioners was held on Wednesday, July 13, 2011 at Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Avenue. President Wallner called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Parks staff present: Superintendent Kevin Briski, Steve Doniger, Charlie Romines, Kay Rutledge, LaVonne LaFave

City staff present: Corey Stelljes, Sally Swenson, Dan Rolfs, Engineering

### I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 6 -

Ald. Mark Clear; Madelyn D. Leopold; William W. Barker; David L. Wallner; Betty Chewning and Emanuel Scarbrough

Excused: 1 -

Joseph R. Clausius

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Leopold/Clear to approve the June 8, 2011 Minutes of the regular meeting of the Park Commission as amended. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Registered speakers:

NAME/ISSUE

Tim Nelson, personally and on behalf of Wild Warner / Fireworks Debris found after R&B

Sandy Rezvani / R&B & Mallards fireworks – disturbance to neighborhood

Kathy Free / Killing of Geese

Kathy Koenig / Killing of Geese

### IV. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

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

V. REPORTS

A. Olbrich Botanical Society Minutes of May 17, 2011 Meeting

A motion was made by Chewning/Leopold to accept the Minutes of May 17, 2011 meeting of the Olbrich Botanical Society. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. President of the Park Commission

President Wallner reported that he had been in contact with FOOT (Friends of Olin-Turville) and would be attending their August 8 meeting. He met with David Mollenhoff and James Tye regarding the John Nolen Task Force. The group is awaiting a response from Mayor Soglin concerning their proposal. He also serves on the James Madison Park Surplus Property Committee and the group will be meeting next week to discuss the bids that have been received on the three properties. Finally, he is continuing to visit Madison parks. He was struck by the beauty of Owen Conservation Park and discovered that Hiestand Park has a Frisbee golf course.

C. Superintendent of Parks

[23138](#)

1. Written Report of Supervisor's Activities

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

2. Informational Items

Charlie Romines, the new Parks Operations Manager who began on June 20, 2011 was introduced.

The annual Park Commission tour will take place on August 10 in place of the regular Commission meeting. Superintendent Briski suggested starting at Olbrich Gardens, seeing the improvements at the Warner Baseball stadium, continuing to Cherokee Marsh, seeing the improvements at Door Creek Park and returning to Olbrich for supper. Suggestions were made to possibly add a stop at Breese Stevens, to look at the lagoon and natural area at Warner and to look at the ball diamonds at Olbrich.

Superintendent Briski recapped both the Rhythm and Booms and Elver fireworks events. Both were well attended and both had better clean-ups this year due to a better volunteer process. He noted that the R&B contract is up for renewal this year. The contract is negotiated in the Mayor's office with Common Council approval.

Correspondence from Friends of Olin Turville was included in the Commission packets. Romines and Hefty have been attending their meetings. There is a lot

of collaboration with this friends group and they have contributed toward many of the improvements in the conservation area of the park.

Russ Hefty continues to provide commentary at our monthly conservation park tours. Tonight's tour is at Owen Conservation Park. These programs are well attended.

Parks was the recipient of a very significant volunteer effort by Lands End employees. Over 300 volunteers cleaned all the shorelines from Law Park to Brittingham Park to Olin Turville Park. Lands' End paid the regular wages for all those who volunteered.

Finally, Parks is partnering with the Goodman Community Center, which was approached by KaBoom!, a national playground organization, to install a playground at their site. KaBoom! has installed playgrounds at other community centers in Madison. Unfortunately, Goodman Community Center did not have space on their property and suggested that it be installed at Wirth Court Park. Romines worked with the city's Risk Manager and City Attorney to finalize the details for this project. It will be Parks' first community build project. The project proposal was submitted and is in the process of national selection review. If selected, Parks will receive a new playground at Wirth Court Park and will take over the maintenance of the equipment. The playground will be built by community volunteers. KaBoom! requires community support for the project. Part of their criteria is that there must be at least 200 community volunteers involved and \$8,500 must be provided. Parks will provide a match of \$4,250 from its People for Parks fund for this project and Goodman Community Center will provide the balance. The Park Commission is being asked to acknowledge to the Common Council that it supports this project and accepts the donation of this playground structure and agrees to maintain it in the future. It is a good match for this particular park and strengthens our relationship with Goodman Community Center. Alder Marsha Rummel supports this project. There can be no formal motion because it was not noticed on the agenda.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the People for Parks fund and its current balance. Knepp reported that annually there is approximately \$50,000 to \$75,000 available and at this point there is approximately \$30,000 to \$50,000 available to use in matching donations.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. [23144](#) Blink Art Project at Law Park entitled *Birds on the Bike Path*

Registered Speaker:  
Erika Koivunen, in support

A motion was made by Barker/Clear to approve the Blink Art Project at Law Park entitled *Birds on the Bike Path* subject to artist's compliance with all conditions. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. [23145](#)

Cherokee Marsh Stormwater Management Ponds

**Registered Speaker:**

**Corey Stelljes, City Engineering, in support**

This project is the installation of stormwater management ponds along two ditches on the ends of Delaware Blvd. and Ilene Lane that were originally installed to drain water from the neighborhood out to the lake channel and then into the marsh. The project will consist of excavating new ponds in conjunction with filling the existing stormwater ditches. Engineering will bury pipe and then plug the ditches with organic material to allow the passage of water into the ponds. These ponds will help with stormwater treatment by removing sediments, oils and other contaminants in the runoff from the neighborhood by Northland Manor that currently enters Cherokee Marsh untreated. When the project is complete the water will enter the system at the end of Delaware and Ilene Lanes, passing through the pipes to ultimately settle in the ponds. A secondary outflow for large storms would be via three additional pipes to the west through the existing third ditch, which will not be filled.

Engineering has been working with both Kay Rutledge and Russ Hefty on the creation of a new area of shallow wetland north and south of the main body of the westernmost pond. Engineering is providing the funds and work and Parks is providing the land. In exchange Parks will be the recipient and maintain the new wetlands that will be created as part of the pond project. There will be a small net gain in overall wetland size. Any impacted ski trails would be rerouted.

The project will require extensive tree removals. The more than 2000 trees on the site have been inventoried, surveyed and evaluated by an arborist. These trees are primarily cottonwood and ash together with an old oak grove. The ponds will be bent around the valuable trees in the oak grove as well as around the current wetlands. Engineering does not anticipate any adverse effects to the oak grove although no study has been done to determine if the ground is already totally saturated. Stelljes said that Engineering will check into this issue. Commissioners requested details on the species, size and quality of the affected trees. Barker expressed concern that the ponds would be an issue on the health of the trees.

While other locations were considered, these sites were chosen because the ponds need to be constructed at the lowest point in the watershed.

Engineering is attempting to make the ponds as large as the sites will accommodate to allow for better trapping efficiency. The pond levels will fluctuate with storms. Their purpose is to slow down the flow of water from the more than 350 acres of urban area before it reaches the Marsh. These ponds will help the city meet its 2013 stormwater runoff obligation. This project is scheduled for construction in the winter when the ground is frozen.

A motion was made by Clear/Scarborough to approve Engineering's request for the installation of the Cherokee Marsh Stormwater Management Ponds.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C. Bioretention in City Parks ~ Spring Harbor and Indian Hills Parks**

**Registered Speakers:**

**Sally Swenson, City Engineering**

**Darrin Burleigh, in opposition**

**Herman Felstehausen, in support**

**Greg Hull, in support**

**Carol Quintana Neutral**

Engineering is proposing to install two bio-retention basins, one at Indian Hills Park and one at Spring Harbor parking lot. The bio-retention basins/rain garden request came from the neighborhoods to manage sediment issues. The Spring Harbor basin will have approximately 950 feet for rain gardens to the northeast of the parking lot to provide 800 feet of drainage. The basin will be dry and function like a rain garden. Box elder trees will be removed in that area.

At Indian Hills Park the basin will be closer to Flambeau Road, among the trees, approximately 1000 feet long. No trees will be removed for this project. The area will function as a rain garden and is not designed to hold water. This will treat about 10 acres of the neighborhood.

Both basins will be wet after rains but are not designed to hold standing water. They will reduce sediment by about 40% at Spring Harbor and about 50% at Indian Hills. It is anticipated they will be able to function for about 10 to 15 years before maintenance on them will be necessary to remove the accumulated sediment.

Speakers noted that the Spring Harbor neighborhood has offered to help with maintenance of the rain gardens and that the Indian Hills neighborhood has received offers of volunteers for their rain gardens.

Some Park Commissioners noted that, from a global warming point of view, they believe there will be more storm events of greater magnitude. They were concerned that nothing be done that would negatively affect shorelines, such as paving. Concern was also expressed regarding the removal of trees for these types of projects which would remove good solid tree cover for bird habitat. Also the potential loss of ash trees to EAB would result in the loss of the tree canopy in the city in general. Concern was also expressed about getting such complicated projects at the last minute without receiving adequate advance information. It was noted that the city is facing a giant issue with stormwater management and unfortunately Parks has the largest real estate holdings on which to put these stormwater ponds.

A motion was made by Clear/Leopold to approve Engineering's installation of Bio-retention in Indian Hills and Spring Harbor Parks. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- D. [22668](#) Amending the Park Division's 2011 Capital Budget and authorizing the Mayor and the City Clerk to enter into grant agreements with the United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service for oak savannah restoration at Edna Taylor Conservation and wetland restoration at Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park. ADs 16 & 18)

**This Resolution was Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES.**

**Barker congratulated staff for seeking federal funds for this wetland restoration.**

**A motion was made by Barker/Clear to approve Resolution ID#22668 Amending the Park Division's 2011 Capital Budget and authorizing the Mayor and the City Clerk to enter into grant agreements with the United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service for oak savannah restoration at Edna Taylor Conservation and wetland restoration at Cherokee Marsh Conservation Parks. (AD's 16 & 18) MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- E. [22952](#) Authorizing the transfer of property in Leopold Park from the Parks Division to the Water Utility for the site of a future booster pump station.

**This Resolution was Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES.**

**Registered Speaker:**

**Dan Rolfs, City Engineering, available for questions**

**A motion was made by Scarbrough/Clear to approve Resolution ID#22952 Authorizing the transfer of Property in Leopold Park from the Parks Division to the Water Utility for the site of a future booster pump station. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- F. [22958](#) Authorizing the execution of agreements and associated easements with Madison Gas and Electric Company relating to the installation, operation, maintenance and repair of electric vehicle charging stations on City property.

**This Resolution was Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the SUSTAINABLE DESIGN AND ENERGY COMMITTEE. Due back on 7/18/2011.**

**Registered Speaker:**

**Ron Peterson, MG&E, in support**

**A motion was made by Leopold/Barker to approve Resolution ID\$22958 Authorizing the execution of agreements and associated easements with Madison Gas and Electric Company relating to the installation, operation, maintenance and repair of electric vehicle charging stations on City property. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- G. [23034](#) Amending Sec. 38.05(9)(e), Secs. 10.056(4)(a)7., (4)(b)3., (5)(d), (5)(f), creating Secs. 10.056(4)(b)4. and (6)(p), and amending Sec. 38.07(7) of the

Madison General Ordinances to require Common Council approval of temporary Class B alcohol licenses issued in conjunction with Street Use Permits and modifying the procedures for approving such licenses and Street Use Permits accordingly.

**This Ordinance was Return to Lead with the Recommendation to Place on File without Prejudice**

This ordinance has been proposed by the Mayor. Superintendent Briski stated there are currently 21 events in the downtown area that would be covered by this ordinance. These events have been overseen by many years by the Street Use Staff Team, chaired by Parks staff, which is comprised of staff from various city departments that review street related events. Under the present ordinance, this staff team adheres to the policies set by the Common Council to approve street use permits and Class B Alcohol Licenses. The Mayor has proposed that any event that asks for a Class B Alcohol License would also have to receive Council approval. This ordinance would require that the street use process would have to be changed in order to have time to route an event through the Council. Parks concern is the additional time that would be required to complete that process. Superintendent Briski added that event sponsors will be upset with what they see as another bureaucratic hurdle from the city and staff will bear the brunt of that frustration.

The alders noted the proposed ordinance appears to be the result of one event that got out of control. They understood taking the pressure off the staff team and having the Council make those decisions but weren't sure this was the right solution since it appears the process has worked well except for this one event. Alders and the Mayor can attend and/or comment on any request during those meetings. Commissioners wondered if a different process could be recommended that could help put the brakes on the amount of alcohol at these events.

A motion was made by Scarbrough/Barker to approve Ordinance ID#23034 Amending Sec. 38.05(9)(e), Secs. 10.056(4)(a)7., (4)(b)3., (5)(d), (5)(f), creating Secs. 10.056(4)(b)4. and (6)(p), and amending Sec. 38.07(7) of the Madison General Ordinances to require Common Council approval of temporary Class B alcohol licenses issued in conjunction with Street Use Permits and modifying the procedures for approving such licenses and Street Use Permits accordingly. **MOTION FAILED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A motion was made by Clear/Scarbrough to place on file Ordinance ID#23034 Amending Sec. 38.05(9)(e), Secs. 10.056(4)(a)7., (4)(b)3., (5)(d), (5)(f), creating Secs. 10.056(4)(b)4. and (6)(p), and amending Sec. 38.07(7) of the Madison General Ordinances to require Common Council approval of temporary Class B alcohol licenses issued in conjunction with Street Use Permits and modifying the procedures for approving such licenses and Street Use Permits accordingly. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- H. ID#22807 Resolution to authorize the Parks Superintendent to apply for a grant from the Wisconsin Waterways Commission for dredging a channel for recreational boating for the Marshall Park Dredging Project, and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter an agreement to accept and use grant funds towards the Marshall Park Dredging Project.**

Superintendent Briski reported that this Resolution has already been approved by the Common Council and is brought before the Park Commission for their information. This is part of an Engineering project to benefit the Parks Division.

- I. [23150](#) Appeal of Encroachment Violation at the Beach in Tenney Park by Pamela and Michael Druhan

Registered Speakers:  
Al Matano, opposes appeal  
Tom Putzer, opposes appeal

Superintendent Briski reported that Mr. Durhan requested an extension to the next Park Commission meeting due to a death in the family. This encroachment was shown to the Park Commission a year ago and has not been resolved. A motion was made by Clear/Leopold to refer the appeal of Encroachment Violation at the beach in Tenney Park by Pamela and Michael Druhan to the September Park Commission meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- VII. OLD BUSINESS - None

- VIII. PUBLIC INPUT (quorum of Park Commission not needed)

Superintendent Briski made the following presentation.

Mayor Soglin has created a public input process and is holding a series of conversations about the budget. People will be asked to identify what city services they value. He asked that all the various boards and commissions provide an opportunity in their meetings for public input with regard to the upcoming budget process.

In previous years the Parks budget was presented with cuts and supplemental requests were made to cover the items that were cut. The Parks budget is \$7 million. Mayor Soglin, based on the budget shortfalls relating directly to the Governor's budget and loss of revenue sharing, etc., has a projected shortfall of \$10-11 million and is asking for a 5% reduction in next year's budget from all agencies. Parks is looking for areas that don't relate to staffing levels because managers believe it is important to maintain staffing. They are looking at areas of efficiencies, areas of vacancies and possible restructuring, and purchased services and contracts. The biggest portion of the Parks budget is salaries followed by utilities. Options that have been presented in previous years relate to utility use, such as water for ice rinks. While Parks supports ice skating, filling and maintaining the rinks throughout the season is expensive. The Adopt the Ice program was created for maintenance and clearing off the ice but didn't relate to the utility costs. Parks may contact neighborhood associations to ask whether they want to contribute toward the water costs.

Parks is also seeing savings because of improvements made to lighting



throughout the system, e.g. motion sensors for shelter lights. Staff are instructed to turn vehicles off to reduce idling.

Commissioners asked how to raise questions respectfully about budgets in other agencies and whether those could be reduced, e.g. road construction.

Parks is hoping to reclassify the two vacant conservation positions and has committed to funding them both at fulltime. Parks goal is to protect and increase the conservation parks portion of the budget.

The discussion turned to how to get more personal investment in our parks and the volunteer program. Parks has a fulltime Volunteer Coordinator and her duties have expanded three fold. She is bringing in volunteers from areas that had not been tapped before by moving into corporations' social conscience for giving, together with fraternities and sororities.

#### IX. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Leopold/Barker the meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.