



City of Madison

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

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

6:30 PM 625 Northport Dr. # (Warner Park Community Recreation Center)

The regular meeting of the Madison Board of Park Commissioners was held on Wednesday, December 8, 2010 at Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Avenue. President Barker called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Parks staff present: Kevin Briski, Steve Doniger, Eric Knepp, Kay Rutledge, LaVonne LaFave

City Staff present: Al Larson, Water Utility Daniel Rolfs, Archie Nicolette, David Kress, Planning Dept. and Don Marx, Real Estate

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 6 -

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

Excused: 1 -

Emanuel Scarbrough

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Wallner/Skidmore to approve the Minutes of the November 10, 2010 regular meeting of the Park Commission. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Registered speakers:

NAME	Issue
Lori Chadli	Supports non-lethal long term geese management
Jim Carrier	Supports natural conservancy area in Warner Park

IV. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

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

V. REPORTS

Golf Subcommittee

A motion was made by Clausius/Leopold to accept the Minutes of the October 5, 2010 meeting of the Golf Subcommittee. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Long Range Planning Subcommittee

A motion was made by Wallner/Skidmore to accept the Minutes of the August 23, 2010 Meeting of the Long Range Planning Subcommittee. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Wallner reported the subcommittee is making good progress on the issues of parking, an alcohol ban in parks and the memorial policy. President Barker noted the section discussing the use of trust monies for projects and stated that any use of trust funds requires Park Commission approval.

Olbrich Botanical Society

A motion was made by Chewning/Wallner to accept the Minutes of the October 19, 2010 Meeting of the Olbrich Botanical Society. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Subcommittee

A motion was made by Clausius/Wallner to accept the Minutes of the September 23, 2010 of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Subcommittee. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

President of the Park Commission.

President Barker displayed the Fellowship Award he received at the WPRA Awards ceremony in LaCrosse in November. This is the highest award a non-member can receive for their significant contributions to parks and open space; but he felt that the award was really in recognition of the hard work that all members of the Central Park and Garver Feed Mill Reuse Committees put forth. He was very grateful for the honor.

He also announced he will not run for another term as President of the Park Commission.

Superintendent of Parks

Written Report of Supervisor's Activities

A motion was made by Chewning/Clausius to accept the Written Report of Supervisor's Activities. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Informational Items

Superintendent Briski distributed the December Parks Newsletter that features 2010-11 winter activities. The employee of the month is Kelly Wilson from Warner Park Community Recreation Center. Kelly has also been helping on the facility management side of Olbrich's buildings until a replacement is hired for their newly retired maintenance person.

The Planning Section is working on a Parks and Open Space Plan update. This is a Plan that is updated every five years. A series of meetings will be held in the spring for public input to update the plan. Staff is beginning to develop

processes to gather that input and will work with the Long Range Planning Subcommittee.

A request was made for a policy clarification regarding the no mow area within 15 feet of lakeshores. Lakeshore areas are being allowed to grow up for geese control. It appears to be inconsistent policy since we want to encourage people to have access to the lakes.

Members inquired on the survey of playground equipment and inspection process. It was noted that staff have been trained for these inspections with all repairs noted and promptly taken care of. The CIP funds repairs and acquisitions for new pieces.

The January Park Commission will be at Warner Park Community Recreation Center. The Volunteer event has been scheduled for March 14 and will again be sponsored by the Madison Parks Foundation.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A [20239](#)

Providing the Wisconsin Department of Transportation with the City of Madison's comments on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the Verona Road/USH 18/151 Project.

A motion was made by Chewing/Skidmore to refer this item to the next meeting. A substitute motion was made by Wallner/Clausius to approve Resolution ID#20239 providing the Wisconsin Department of Transportation with the City of Madison's comments on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the Verona Road/USH 18/151 Project and to incorporate the comments from the Parks Division as shown in attachment 8. SUBSTITUTE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

President Barker stated the Commissioners received a great deal of information at the last minute and if they are expected to comment on it they need to receive it at least by the Friday prior to the meeting. He has brought this issue up at previous meetings. A motion was made by Chewing/Skidmore to refer Resolution ID#20239 Providing the Wisconsin Department of Transportation with the City of Madison's comments on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the Verona Road/USH 18/151 Project because they did not have adequate time to review the materials.

Rutledge reported this is a time sensitive issue and apologized that the materials did not get to them in time. The information is essentially the same as what the Commissioners saw last April. The City has been compiling comments from the various city agencies and commissions to be combined for one submittal. There is a deadline for this and if the Park Commission does not act on this issue tonight their comments will not be included. She then asked for permission to highlight information and asked if they would agree with Superintendent Briski's summary memo. Superintendent Briski interjected that this came as a referral from the Common Council and the Parks Division comments were not included in that information. Parks staff made an effort to go through our files to capture the comments from the meetings last spring so that they could be included in the comments for the Council.

A substitute motion was made by Wallner/Clausius to approve Resolution ID#20239 providing the Wisconsin Department of Transportation with the City of Madison's comments on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact

Statement (SDEIS) for the Verona Road/USH 18/151 Project and to incorporate the comments from the Parks Division as shown in attachment 8.

Chewning reported that she didn't support the proposal last spring and doesn't support it now and further has not had an opportunity to review the comments. Rutledge stated that Stages 1 and 2 do not affect the Britta Parkway parklands. Stage 3 would not be implemented until at least 2030 and that could potentially impact Britta Parkway. In the options that were presented more than half of the parkland could be taken. There are two alternatives that were presented, one of which renders the park useless by separating the residents from the park by the frontage road and the other eliminates the frontage road and routes traffic through the neighborhood. WisDOT speaks about mitigation in their Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and asked which option would be preferable for Stage 3. It was also noted that an EIS is only good for three years and WisDOT would have to come back before the Park Commission for Stage 3. This does not allow them to move forward and take parkland in 2030. WisDOT does speak of mitigation at fair market value and could provide different parkland or improve DeVolis Park. The Park Commission is not being asked to vote on the whole plan but only on the Parks Division comments. Parks comments also put WisDOT on notice of our strong feelings and that any approvals need to come back to the Park Commission.

The motion was restated. A motion was made by Chewning/Skidmore to refer this item to the next meeting. A substitute motion was made by Wallner/Clausius to approve Resolution ID#20239 providing the Wisconsin Department of Transportation with the City of Madison's comments on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the Verona Road/USH 18/151 Project and to incorporate the comments from the Parks Division as shown in attachment 8. **SUBSTITUTE MOTION CARRIED with Chewning voting nay and Skidmore abstaining.**

- Present:** 1 -
Barker
- Excused:** 1 -
Scarborough
- Ayes:** 3 -
Leopold; Clausius and Wallner
- Noes:** 1 -
Chewning
- Abstentions:** 1 -
Skidmore

- B.** [20601](#) Authorizing the execution of an Underground Utility Easement to Wisconsin Bell, d/b/a AT&T, across a portion of Elizabeth Link Peace Park located at 229 West Gilman Street.

**A motion was made by Skidmore/Chewning to approve Resolution ID#20601 authorizing the execution of an Underground Utility Easement to Wisconsin Bell, d/b/a AT&T, across a portion of Elizabeth Link Peace Park located at 229 West Gilman Street. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
This Resolution was RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF**

OFFICER

- C. [20626](#) Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a Donation and Naming Right Agreement Regarding the Tenney Park Shelter Project between the Madison Parks Foundation and the City of Madison. (AD#2)

A motion was made by Wallner/Skidmore to approve Resolution ID#20626 authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a Donation and Naming Right Agreement regarding the Tenney Park Shelter Project between the Madison Parks Foundation and the City of Madison. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. This Resolution was RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER

- D. [20636](#) Authorizing the execution of an Offer to Sell and Gift Real Estate with Scott M. Faust ("Seller") for the purchase of two lots located at 2724 and 2728 Waunona Way for the expansion of Esther Beach Park and authorizing the amendment of the 2010 Parks Capital Budget for the acquisition of the lots.

Rutledge reported this purchase would provide two additional lots to enlarge the park. Parks would undertake a Master Planning process if this transaction is completed.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Chewning to approve Resolution ID#20636 Authorizing the execution of an Offer to Sell and Gift Real Estate with Scott M. Faust ("Seller") for the purchase of two lots located at 2724 and 2728 Waunona Way for the expansion of Esther Beach Park and authorizing the amendment of the 2010 Parks Capital Budget for the acquisition of the lots. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

This Resolution was Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval

- E. [20658](#) Amending the 2010 Operating Budget of the Parks Division by transferring \$62,000 from the dog park fund for the creation of two new off leash dog parks.

Registered non-speakers:

NAME	Issue
Paddy Rourke	Thanks for making the Eastside Dog Parks happen
Suzanne Sarah Forsberg	Thank you for working with Eastside Dog Park Coalition
Philip Forsberg	Thank you for the new dog parks

A motion was made by Chewning/Wallner to approve Resolution ID#20658 amending the 2010 Operating Budget of the Park Division by transferring \$62,000 from the dog park fund for the creation of two new off leash dog parks. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

This Resolution was Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval

- F. [20672](#) Authorizing the execution of an Agreement between Madison Metro Youth

Golf Initiative, Inc. and the City of Madison to allow use of Monona Golf Course for The First Tee program. (AD16)

Registered speaker(s):

NAME Issue

Joni Dye Favors Adoption of Use Agmt

Darin Key – not speaking Supports Agmt

Superintendent Briski reported that Rob Muranyi, the Golf Pro at Monona Golf Course supports the program.

A motion was made by Wallner/Clausius to approve Resolution ID#20672 Authorizing the execution of an Agreement between Madison Metro Youth Golf Initiative, Inc. and the City of Madison to allow use of Monona Golf Course for The First Tee program. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

- G. [20705](#) Request of Judy Miyagawa of the Arthritis Foundation, WI Chapter to host the annual Dane County Arthritis Walk “Let’s Move Together” in Olin Park on May 14, 2011.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Wallner to approve the request of Judy Miyagawa of the Arthritis Foundation, WI Chapter to host the annual Dane County Arthritis Walk “Let’s Move Together” in Olin Park on May 14, 2011 subject to Sponsor’s compliance with all conditions. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- H. [20706](#) Potential Water Utility Booster Station in Aldo Leopold Park

Registered speakers, all in support

Al Larson of Water Utility
Andy Mullendore, Project Manager
Dan Rolfs, Planning Dept

The primary reason for the booster pump station is to provide better services and improve fire flow to the Arbor Hills neighborhood as well as provide the ability to transfer water between zones. The pipeline goes to Raymond Road at the south city limits and butts up to Fitchburg. They reviewed 6 alternatives, including drilling a new well, buying water from Fitchburg or building a water tower and residents felt the pump station was the preferred solution. The criterion of the various sites was explained together with the reason for choosing the Aldo Leopold site. It was also reported that the purchase price for this parcel would be small and there would be restrictions put on the parcel that in the event the Water Utility discontinued its use the property would revert back to the Parks Division. The pump station would be 42’x24’, with three 1,000 gpm booster pumps, a future chemical room, and restrooms for

utility staff. It would have a shingled roof with a brick/block exterior.

Superintendent Briski does not anticipate there will be a large impact on the park during the construction and felt comfortable with this proposal. He added that it is always tough to recommend the sale of parkland but there is a precedent of selling small parcels to the Water Utility. The Parks Division and Water Utility do share facilities at various locations. The Water Utility formed a Citizen's Advisory Panel for this project and both Alder Bruer and the neighborhood association are in favor of this site. They had reviewed locations within a 2,000 foot swath.

Commissioners inquired about the purchase price and whether it could be used to purchase the wooded area shown in site C since there is no guarantee that private property would stay wooded. The Park Commission struggles with giving away parkland but it does sound as though this is the best location from the Water Utility's point of view, however can't the Park Commission come away with a little something that will benefit parks rather than just giving away something. It was noted that there will be constraints on the land that will limit it to this particular use and, if that use ends, the land would revert back to Parks. If there is no opposition, some Commissioners felt the sale should be approved, noting that yes, parks are important, but so is good water. The amount of land is not a large area and this would preclude purchasing private land that would be removed from the tax rolls.

President Barker stated he was concerned that the School District was more vigilant about protecting their land than the Park Commission in this instance. The Park Commission has been very reasonable when selling parkland because it's necessary, such as the land (part of Doncaster Park) next to the Verona Road interchange. It is the Park Commission's charge to be stewards for the parks and to look at parks 100 years into the future. Some Commissioners felt there should be some compensation for parks such as providing replacement land. Larson added that if the Park Commission does not approve this transfer, they would look at Site C and then Site F, which is the ranking the neighborhood gave the various sites.

Superintendent Briski reported that Ald. Bruer does support this proposal and asked that the Park Commission recommend approval. Ald. Bruer also conveyed his apologies for not being present this evening but he was at another meeting. He also reported he has engaged in conversations with the Water Utility manager on land replacement for this property. They have been reviewing various Water Utility parcels that are part of their land bank and not being used by the Utility and they may offer them to the Park Commission. Parks does partner with the Water Utility, there are some Water Utility parcels that are parks. In particular, Reservoir Park may have some of the vacant area turned over to Parks to develop as a park while it would remain Water Utility property. Reynolds Field is a Water Utility property but there are tennis courts on top of their building and it is also used for bike polo. .

A motion was made by Skidmore/Wallner to approve the sale of the parcel in Aldo Leopold Park to the Water Utility. MOTION CARRIED with Chewning abstaining.

A seven minute break was taken. Members present: Bill Barker, Betty

Chewning, Ald. Joe Clausius, Madelyn Leopold, Ald. Paul Skidmore and David Wallner. Members excused: Emanuel Scarbrough

I. [20707](#) Proposed Fees for 2011

Traditionally the golf fees and cemetery fees are held back from the majority of the fees that are adopted each fall. Tonight the athletic fees and golf fees for 2011 are presented for approval. The golf fees have been vetted by the Golf Subcommittee and their input is reflected in this submittal. The cemetery fees will be presented in January. Each fee has both direct and indirect costs and those costs were considered as the fees were reviewed. It was important to find the right balance between the ability to serve customers, provide good customer service and capture the direct costs. Athletic fees reflect two tiers, those premier fields with athletic caretakers and regular fields with different amenities. Lights are charged separately. The only new fee is an option for field service maintenance, in the past there was only a scheduling fee. This fee recognizes that there is more and more demand and provides leagues with an opportunity to have Parks paint lines, etc. and charge them for it.

A motion was made by Chewning/Wallner to approve the proposed fees for golf and athletics for 2011. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. [20715](#) Information on Proposed Parkland in the Downtown Plan

Planning Staff Speakers:

Archie Nicolette Provided information
David Kress Provided Information

The presentation at the November Park Commission meeting brought forward the concept of a new downtown park. Planning staff felt this was an important issue and wanted to provide the Park Commission with additional information and to hear their comments regarding the proposed park. The proposed Downtown Plan is a 20 to 25 year plan. It is very difficult to get new parkland in the downtown area and the longer the city waits, the harder it will be to get. This proposal shows a new park that would be bounded by Johnson, Bassett and Dayton Streets and is close to the campus and State Street. Its location compliments the higher density developments in an area that is underserved by parks. It is a highly visible site and could draw people to the space.

Planning considered that there are only a few property owners to work with noting this concept plan is for discussion purposes. This site would provide 1.75 acres of parkland. The parcels have a number of surface parking lots, seven outdated buildings with no architecturally significant features and are not deemed quality properties. The structures would need to be removed and would open up the space to a variety of opportunities for more urban open space. The materials provided to the Park Commission show the current owners of the land were not pleased with the proposal and have submitted an

intention to develop the site. Planning wanted to make certain the Parks Division and Park Commission were aware of the obstacles. The more formal Plan will be presented to the Common Council and then referred back to various Commissions/Committees for additional input.

Commissioners questioned taking private land off the tax rolls. Concern was mentioned that a majority of the land in the downtown area is off the tax rolls. Planning responded that parcels adjoining parkland result in a 20% increase in property values. They also noted that when they make suggestions they are not looking at just the economic factors but many different aspects, such as what makes the downtown exciting, why the park is needed, what amenities are wanted in the neighborhood, etc. Staff did evaluate other locations but felt this was the best site. It is hoped that the Park Commission will support the concept, but if they aren't comfortable with the location perhaps they can suggest another location.

Wallner spoke of the controversy many years ago of purchasing land for James Madison Park and what an important decision it was for the health and vitality of the city. No matter where you build Downtown, there will be issues.

In response to how the property would be purchased, Planning hoped that park development fees collected by Parks for the Downtown/Isthmus District could be allocated for this park. TIF money cannot be used to purchase parkland but could pay for peripherals. Commissioners noted that the city has much time and money invested in Central Park and they do not want to see the focus changed to highlight this new park. Skidmore doesn't like this location, he believes it is very expensive and that it is counterproductive to Central Park which he fully supports. Nicolette added he isn't here to argue about the money or if this is the best location, he is here to present a 20 year concept plan for the downtown. Planning creates visions, goals, objectives and recommendations to work toward over that period of time. If the plan is approved by the Council then the city agencies work toward those goals.

Commissioners affirmed that they support acquiring open space in the area, just not this specific site. People are attracted here because Madison has a high quality of life and that comes back to our abundance of green space. When decisions are made that erode the quality of life it won't be easy to get the best and the brightest here, or to keep them here. Also, it isn't reasonable to take a simplistic approach to decision making that just focuses on just taking property off the tax rolls. The Commissioners support finding more green space and most do not believe that it will impact Central Park.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Wallner/Chewning the meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.