



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, August 12, 2026

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, August 12, 2026. President Miller Fienen called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Members Present: Bethany Alwa; Jovan Chavez; Ald. Carmella Glenn; Ald. Noah Lieberman; Chandra Miller Fienen; and Ben Williams.

Members Excused: Patrick Hasburgh.

Parks Staff Present: Eric Knepp; Lisa Laschinger; CJ Ryan; Nicole Miller; Tanya Zastrow; Samantha Peckham; John Weichelt; and Brian Kowalski.

2 [94262](#)

Approval of the Minutes of the July 8, 2026 Board of Park Commissioners meeting.

**Motion made by Glenn, seconded by Lieberman, to Approve the Minutes.
Motion passed by voice vote/other.**

3 [94267](#)

Public Comment

Public speaker Beth Sluys spoke neither in support nor opposition regarding Hartmeyer-Roth Park.

4 Disclosures and Recusals

None.

Reports

5 President of the Park Commission

President Miller Fienen welcomed new Park Commissioner Jovan Chavez. Chavez introduced himself.

6 Superintendent of Parks

Assistant Superintendent CJ Ryan gave the report. Ryan described the disruptions to the normal daily work of the Parks Division's work due to air quality, severe weather, and the impacts of the officer involved shooting of Corey Ruiz. Ryan explained the role that some Parks Division staff played in the City's response to the protests and in removing the encampment from Baldwin and Williamson Streets. Ride the Drive was cancelled this year as to not disturb the neighborhood further and to recognize the seriousness of the shooting. During the August 12th election, some Parks employees aided in delivering ballots to polling places. The 20th anniversary event for the Goodman Pool was postponed to Friday, August 14 due to weather. The Goodman Pool had to cancel their 20th anniversary event due to weather. The GLEAM event at Olbrich Gardens opens on August 29th. Ryan and Superintendent Eric Knepp answered questions.

7 [94271](#) August 2026 Superintendent's Report

Motion made by Lieberman, seconded by Williams, to Accept the Report. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

8 [94240](#) Accepting the Report of the Minutes of the July 13, 2026 Facilities, Programs and Fees Subcommittee meeting.

Motion made by Williams, seconded by Alwa, to Accept the Report. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

9 New Business

10 [93892](#) Approving application from Friends of Kettle Pond Conservation Park

Volunteer Coordinator John Weichelt provided an overview of the request and was available to answer questions.

Motion made by Glenn, seconded by Alwa, to Approve the Request. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

11 [94207](#) Authorizing the use of up to \$125,000 of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and authorizing the Community Development Division to enter into agreements with the Parks Division in order to implement neighborhood improvement projects identified in the North East Area Plan (District 3, District 12, District 17, District 18)

Assistant Superintendent Lisa Laschinger provided an overview of the request and was available to answer questions.

Motion made by Williams, seconded by Lieberman, to RETURN TO LEAD WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

- 12 [94291](#) Informational Presentation from Olbrich Botanical Society Regarding Recently Adopted Interpretive Plan
- Olbrich Gardens Executive Director Tanya Zastrow provided an overview of the Interpretive Plan.**
- Zastrow and Director of Horticulture Samantha Peckham answered questions.**
- 13 [94289](#) Informational Presentation Regarding Garver Feed Mill Operations at Olbrich Park (District 15)
- Laschinger introduced the item and the presenters.**
- Bryant Moroder and Bethany Jurewicz of Garver Events provided an informational presentation and answered questions.**
- Registered speaker Nicholas Davies spoke in opposition.**
Registered speaker Liz Smith spoke in support.
- 14 [94157](#) Informational Presentation For Southeast Area Park Development Plans
- Landscape Architect Brian Kowalski provided an overview of the Development Plans and answered questions.**
- 15 **Adjournment**
- Motion made by Glenn, seconded by Williams, to Adjourn at 8:43 PM. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**