



# 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, March 11, 2009

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

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

**Present:** 6 -  
Michael Schumacher; William W. Barker; David L. Wallner; Betty  
Chewing; Emanuel Scarbrough and Janet Parker

**Excused:** 1 -  
Joseph R. Clausius

Parks staff present: Superintendent Kevin Briski, Bill Bauer, Steve Doniger, Jim  
Weinstock, LaVonne LaFave, Laura Bauer, Craig Klinke, Shelley Johnson, Jeff Epping,  
Roberta Sladky, Tom Maglio  
City staff present: Andrew Statz, Ray Harmon  
Alders present: Alds. Larry Palm, Marsha Rummel, Paul Skidmore

### ROLL CALL

President Barker called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. He noted there was a very full  
agenda and asked those who would be speaking to be mindful of the three-minute time rule.  
A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed. He then introduced the  
newest Commissioner, Janet Parker. She works for the community gardens program at  
Community Action Coalition.

### PARKS EMPLOYEE(S) OF THE MONTH

Superintendent Briski introduced Shelley Johnson, East Parks Leadworker  
who is the March employee of the month. Shelley is committed to everything  
she does in East Parks and has a passion for the parks in Madison and takes a  
great deal of pride in what she does. She always has something to bring to the  
table, whether it's an opinion or an idea to make things better. Her daughters,  
Samantha and Tyra, were also present. Applause followed.

President Barker added that he is very pleased with this employee recognition  
program that recognizes Parks excellent staff.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no members of the public who wished to comment on items not on  
the Agenda.

Alder Larry Palm requested that he speak at this time regarding the Olbrich Master Plan because he has a neighborhood meeting with a sensitive issue that he needs to address. He is the alder on the eastern side of Olbrich Park where the ball diamonds are located. The number one issue he's heard about from his constituents is the removal of the two ball diamonds and the removal of lighting on all of them. He asked that the four lighted ball diamonds be kept and believes there is plenty of time between the time the Land Use Plan is adopted and when Olbrich Botanical Gardens will need land for expansion and that some compromise can be worked out.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the Special Meeting of October 6, 2008

**A motion was made by Schumacher/Scarborough to approve the October 6, 2008 Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Park Commission. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 15, 2008.

**A motion was made by Wallner/Scarborough to approve the October 15, 2008 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Park Commission. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Regular Meeting of February 11, 2009

**A motion was made by Schumacher/Wallner to approve the Minutes of the February 11, 2009 meeting of the Park Commission. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Long Range Planning Committee Minutes of June 5, 2008 Meeting**

**A motion was made by Wallner/Chewning to accept the Minutes of the June 5, 2008 meeting of the Long Range Planning Committee. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Scarborough suggested that perhaps Parks could provide more space for individuals who want to garden. There are parks in the outlying areas of the city that have not been developed and it might be possible to allow community gardens to use that space with any excess produce being donated to food pantries. He asked Parks staff to look at the feasibility of using undeveloped parkland for this purpose.

Schumacher spoke in support of the group selling bricks/tiles in conjunction with their fundraising efforts to pay for the construction of a new shelter in Tenney Park. This is a great opportunity to assist in this public/private venture.

### **Olbrich Botanical Society Minutes of January 20, 2009 Meeting**

A motion was made by Chewning/Wallner to accept the Minutes of the January 20, 2009 meeting of the Olbrich Botanical Society. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.** A motion was made by Chewning/Parker to approve the request of Olbrich Botanical Society to close all day on June 20, 2009 in preparation for Rhapsody in Bloom. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARK COMMISSION**

President Barker announced that he appointed Brock Woods to the Habitat Stewardship Committee. He is the invasive species specialist with the Wisconsin DNR. The Habitat Stewardship Committee provides guidance to the city's conservation parks. The Parks Division cares for more than 1200 acres in its conservation parks.

### **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS**

Written Report of Supervisors' Activities

A motion was made by Scarbrough/Schumacher to approve the written report. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

Informational Items.

The Madison Parks Newsletter for March was distributed this evening. People can receive the newsletter electronically through our listserv. It is also a link on the Madison Parks website.

LaFave reported that the April Park Commission meeting needs to be rescheduled from its normal second Wednesday of the month due to Passover. Members decided that the meeting would be rescheduled to April 1, 2009. The November meeting date falls in the middle of Common Council budget deliberations and will also need to be reset. This meeting will be rescheduled next month.

### **CORRESPONDENCE, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES**

[12771](#)

SECOND SUBSTITUTE - Establishing sustainability goals to guide the development of the plan for the Northeast Neighborhoods.

Registered Speakers: All in support  
Andrew Stats, Mayor's Office  
Rick Roll, Planning Dept.  
Brian Munson, developer

This area is located east of Interstate 39/90, north of Interstate 94, west of Thorson Road and south of the existing Lien Road. It encompasses approximately 2800 acres and when it is fully developed in the next 30 to 40 years will contain an estimated 30,000 people. The city would like to incorporate as many of the concepts and practices in technology that are good for the environment as possible. This would include goals addressing sustainability, such as reducing household motor vehicle travel by 25%, reducing household consumption of natural gas and fossil fuel-generated electricity, reducing residential water use by 25% and infiltrating 25% of the storm water volume. The plan will outline different strategies for bus usage and early access to transit opportunities. It will be up to the Council and the budget process to determine transit priorities.

Schumacher stated he referred this to the Park Commission for informational purposes because it is a major development on the horizon. There will also be additional parkland dedication. Parks usage is changing from active to passive activities such as walking, biking, etc. and it will provide an opportunity to offer walkable environments.

Statz noted the job center/business district would be along I94 and daily needs would orient around parks, schools, and libraries to be located in the residential portions. The neighborhoods will have walkable elements in a mixed use setting.

Discussion turned to parkland dedication and development fees. The nationwide trend is to reevaluate every portion of a development, such as housing, transportation, employment centers, parks, etc. Parks serve different needs in different developments. Munson suggested that the Park Commission look at redefining what a park is. Some groups use active space, some use passive space such as community gardens, areas for walking and bike paths. He believes the different uses all serve park needs on a city scale. He has spoken with Madison alders on what qualifies for park credit and what qualifies for a park facility in terms of dedications to the city that will meet the demands of residents as their needs change in the various phases of their lives. President Barker stated he doesn't see a correlation between development fees for parks and park uses. It was suggested that if there were park credits for the creation of a regional bike path that links facilities together that could be used for both transportation as well as recreation. It might be possible to string together a series of spaces to create a lineal park system that would offer that type of opportunity. Another suggestion was to dedicate lands for community gardens that would broaden the use of parks.

A motion was made by Schumacher/Chewning to approve Resolution #12771 Second Substitute Establishing sustainability goals to guide the development of the plan for the Northeast Neighborhoods. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

[12176](#)

Creating Section 8.32 of the Madison General Ordinances to create policies and procedures for removal of personal property from public lands.

**Superintendent Briski reported that staff from the Mayor's office suggested it be placed on file because they are working on a revision that will be reintroduced at a later date.**

**A motion was made by Wallner, seconded by Schumacher, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO PLACE ON FILE - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by voice vote/other. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

[13647](#)

Final Report from James Madison Park Property Planning Committee.

seconded by Janet Parker

**This Report was RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Schumacher reported that in order to provide the report to the Common Council it was necessary to place it on the Park Commission Agenda for approval and referral to the Council. The next step will be to introduce a Resolution to create the surplus property committee.**

A motion was made by Scarbrough/Chewning to take ID#'s 13697, 13710, 13758, 13772 and 13856 as a group. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

[13697](#)

To amend the 2009 Capital Budget to allow for the Parks Division's Development Fee project (810437) to fund an 8-acre Prairie Restoration project in 5th Addition adjacent to Sherman Avenue. Funding for the additional expenditures can be funded by a transfer in from the Citywide Parkland Impact Fee fund (SI32). (18 A.D.)

**A motion was made by Parker, seconded by Scarbrough, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

[13710](#)

Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an amendment to the lease with the University of Wisconsin, Board of Regents allowing for the UW's continued placement and use of a floating dock system along the Lake Mendota shoreline within Marshall Park.

**A motion was made by Parker, seconded by Scarbrough, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by voice vote/other. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

[13758](#)

To authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into a one (1) year Agreement between the City of Madison and Deano Dock and Lift, LLC. beginning with the signing of the Lease Agreement and ending on October 31, 2009 for the

use of docking facilities to provide lake access at Marshall, Warner and Olin Parks. (Various ADs)

**A motion was made by Parker, seconded by Scarbrough, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by voice vote/other. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

[13772](#)

Authorizing the acceptance of a Site Assessment Grant (SAG) from the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to fund environmental testing and remediation activities at the Garver Feed Mill site.

**A motion was made by Parker, seconded by Scarbrough, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed by voice vote/other. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

[13856](#)

To extend the closing hours at Olbrich Botanical Gardens to 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 20, 2009 for the 22nd annual Rhapsody in Bloom benefit dinner and dance. (AD 6 & 15)

**A motion was made by Parker, seconded by Scarbrough, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by voice vote/other. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

[13911](#)

Veteran's for Peace requestRequest from John Fournelle of Veteran's for Peace requesting permission to place grave signs along Forest Hill Cemetery from May 23-30, 2009.

The Veterans for Peace Group has asked for consideration to place grave markers along Forest Hill Cemetery over Memorial Day week-end. There were some concerns brought to cemetery staff over the prior installation at the cemetery. Those concerns have been relayed to the Veterans for Peace group. Because of those concerns, Parks staff brought this request back to the Park Commission for their consideration. If there is a recommendation to move the installation to a different location, Parks has some suggested locations. Forest Hill receives lots of recognition with different Veterans programs that week-end.

Veterans for Peace again wants to erect 4400+ grave stones in memory of the soldiers who died in Afghanistan and Iraq. They will have someone there to answer questions 24-hours each day. It was erected along Atwood Drive in Olbrich Park prior to the display at Forest Hill.

Registered Speakers: - All in Support  
Richard Chamberlin  
Will Williams  
Joel Garb – not speaking  
John Carey – not speaking  
Tom Krajewski  
Paul McMahon  
Gail Price

**Ald. Marsha Rummel – not speaking**

Commissioners were told there would be no complications with people parking to view their installation that would make it hard for families coming to Forest Hill Cemetery on Memorial Day because the grave stones are along the road. Speakers responded to a question regarding why people might think this is a war protest instead of honoring veterans by stating that the grave stones recognize those service personnel killed in Afghanistan and Iraq and honor the sacrifice of those who died in these two conflicts.

A motion was made by Schumacher/Chewning to approve the request from John Fournelle of Veteran's for Peace requesting permission to place grave signs along Forest Hill Cemetery from May 23-30, 2009 based upon sponsor's compliance with the recommendations set forth by the Parks Division and endorsed by the Park Commission. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**13912**

Request from Vern Stenman, General Manager of Madison Mallards Baseball Club dated March 2, 2009 to host various special events in connection with their home games at Warner Park Stadium. 1) Three fireworks shows and one laser light show after Mallards games to be determined on Saturday nights during the 2009 season. 2) Roller Derby Event with the Mad Rollin' Dolls on August 22, 2009. 3) Dog Day at the Park on a to be determined date. 4) Two Pint Glass Nights on to be determined dates.

**Registered Speaker: in support**

**Vern Stenman – available for questions**

Stenman would notify the alders, place the information on the Northside Listserv, put the information on the Mallards Marquee and on the Mallards website to inform residents about the events that would be occurring at the Stadium. Scarbrough noted he doesn't agree with the 2 pint glass nights because it promotes drinking. He serves on the Governor's Task Force on Substance Abuse looking at the effects of the drinking culture in Wisconsin. He spoke of recent cases where people had abused alcohol and caused accidents and killed people while driving drunk. Further, the Park Commission recently had an Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Problem of Alcohol and Related Behaviors in City Parks, and allowing the two pint glass nights would be contradictory to that study.

Stenman stated that they made a conscious decision not to allow any underage children to drink with their parents at a game. He described the two pint glass nights as two separate nights where they would distribute a pint glass to the first 750 fans over the age of 21 coming into the stadium. He has done this in the past but it wouldn't be devastating if it wasn't approved.

Commissioners approved allowing dogs in the stadium provided the Mallards comply with conditions deemed necessary by Parks staff and have a dog waste removal plan.

A motion was made by Schumacher/Scarbrough to approve items 1, 2 and 3 of the requests from Vern Stenman, General Manager of Madison Mallards Baseball Club dated March 2, 2009 to host various special events in connection with their home games at Warner Park Stadium based upon sponsor's compliance with the recommendations set forth by the Parks

Division and endorsed by the Park Commission. Item four was not approved. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.** Schumacher commended the Mallards for their security at games and for working with police. The Mallards have really been working with the alders this year to keep them informed of different events they propose at the Stadium.

A motion was made by Schumacher/Scarborough to take item X. New Business out of order. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

NEW BUSINESS

13914

American Transmission Company Route Along Odana Hills Golf Course

Superintendent Briski reported he would be presenting testimony at the Public Service Commission hearing later this month regarding the proposed route along the Beltline that will impact Odana Hills Golf Course. The primary point of contention for the Parks Division is the segment of the recommended line that would be parallel to the Beltline and run through both Odana Hills Golf Course and Odana Hills Park. Hole 3 would be extremely close to the proposed line and it would be problematic for golfers, for Parks staff and for the aesthetics of the course. The rounds of golf comprise the revenue for the golf enterprise and play would be affected at Odana. In addition there is a great deal of pride and passion from the neighbors of Odana Hills Park. There are also deed restrictions there were placed on that park property when it was acquired by the Parks Division. Those deed restrictions very clearly state that this land can only be used for park purposes.

President Barker stated that this is a very high voltage, 120 foot tall tower with transmission lines that will run along the Beltline. The DOT has approved this route, including the portion running through Odana Hills Park. The problem is ATC will also want an easement and road so that they will be able to service their line. Not only will there be a gigantic power line through the park, but there will be a road through the park as well and it would require the removal of many mature trees. ATC is not asking for a road through the golf course but would have right of way access along the route.

Schumacher added that the Common Council did vote on this issue last year and the final vote was that the city is not opposed to the line as long as it is buried. The city will not support any towers. Tonight the Park Commission will determine whether to endorse Superintendent Briski's statements that the Park Commission also opposes any easements through the park.

A motion was made by Chewing/Scarborough that the Park Commission opposes any overhead route as well as anything buried in Odana Hills Park.

Superintendent Briski did not know what would happen if ATC put the line underground and didn't ask for an easement. Schumacher suggested that the motion include that the Park Commission opposes any easements and oppose any towers but if there is a way to put the line underground without any easement then it would not have an impact on the park. President Barker noted that there would however be an impact on the golf course while the



transmission line was being built regardless of whether it was above- or under-ground. Superintendent Briski added that the impact to the golfers during any construction is outlined in Parks testimony. There will be an impact to the golf course. Golf is a seasonal operation and that season coincides with construction season. Any infringement would affect not only hole 3 but up to 7 additional holes. Based on how the line is installed it could shut the course down for a year and it would be tough for the course to rebound after a season in the dark. Parks would ask for imbursement of the lost revenue for closure.

President Barker called attention to the fact that the route is immediately to the east of the Arboretum. There has been much discussion on the UW campus that essentially says the UW doesn't want 120 foot high towers by the Arboretum.

There would be less residual electricity coming through the ground than from overhead lines. However, it's cheaper to put it above ground and ATC also makes money on the maintenance of overhead lines. Commissioners interjected that as months go by it seems there is less need for the additional electricity in view of the slowing economy. The action of the Park Commission will be one further step toward discouraging ATC from building the line. Schumacher stated he could not support the motion in its present form but would support an amended version that addresses opposition to any easement and that ATC must reimburse the golf course for any lost revenue. Chewing felt that was not a friendly amendment. She opposes any easements and isn't sure that any line is needed. However, if it is constructed she wants it underground in a paved area rather than going through the park.

Registered Speaker: opposing transmission line  
Ald. Paul Skidmore

Skidmore reported that ATC can clear cut 120 feet on either side of an overhead line which would eliminate all trees along the route. There will be a major impact to the City of Madison if the line is above ground. Schumacher clarified that his opposition is to the towers but more importantly, if ATC forces this line upon the city, then the city will only accept it if it is underground. What he added tonight is that if they do put the line underground, the Park Commission is not willing to grant any easement.

Scarborough proposed adding that the Park Commission will not grant any easement for an underground line that would be running through Odana Hills Park. This was considered a friendly amendment. The motion now states: A motion was made by Chewing/Scarborough that the Park Commission opposes any overhead or underground route that would run through parklands and also will not grant any easement that would run through parklands.  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A brief recess was taken at 8:06 p.m. Meeting reconvened at 8:13 p. m.

Members present: Bill Barker, Betty Chewing, Janet Parker, Emanuel Scarborough, Ald. Michael Schumacher, and David Wallner  
Members excused: Ald. Joe Clausius

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Olbrich Land Use Plan

[13913](#)

Olbrich Land Use Plan Review Materials

Bill Bauer, Interim Parks Planning and Development Manager, reviewed the various milestones pertaining to Olbrich Park. More than 110 years ago, the Madison Park and Pleasure Drive Association began acquisition of lakefront lands to provide parkland for eastside families. In 1950 construction on the Gardens development began and in 1952 the first garden plantings occurred. Milestones that have driven this current process, and probably the most contentious subject, is the softball portion. Softball peaked in the 1980's and at that time additional fields were opened throughout the city. In the last decade, softball has dropped off 46% and that decline is driving the decision to eliminate these softball fields.

The bottom portion of that Milestone sheet shows the various general meetings and presentations that have occurred since July 2008. More than 300 people have registered to speak at one or more of those meetings. Of that number, 89% are city residents while 64% of that number are from the Olbrich neighborhood. The remaining 11% of general registrants are from throughout the county showing that it is a regional community resource.

The other item Bauer called members attention to was the Land Use Comparison Sheet itemizing acreage from the various plans. Original land use prior to 1990 showed just under 9 acres of display gardens and the balance of that site was used for maintenance and parking. The 2000 adopted Master Plan proposed an expansion of 27 acres, which is basically the entire Garver parcel and the North Platte. In 2001, the Thai Garden across Starkweather Creek was added, bringing the existing display gardens to 12.6 acres. The Garver re-use proposal has spearheaded the current land use proposal. The Gardens would cover 15.5 acres, that includes an expanded maintenance area and greenhouses as shown on the map dated March 2, 2009. Much of the area that is now shown for maintenance might be reprogrammed as display space or other uses to support the gardens. Future garden space would increase to just under ten acres in the current proposal, down from the 27 acres shown in the pre-1990 and the 2000 adopted Master Plans. The expanded garden maintenance area changed from 1.2 acres pre-1990, then 2.1 acres in the 2000 adopted Master Plan and up to 4.7 acres in the 2008 Garver Re-use plan. This area is now down to 3 acres in the latest version of the land use plan. The SASYNA alternative shows no garden maintenance area. The Garver buildings encompassed 4.9 acres in the 2000 adopted Master Plan, while the 2008 Garver Re-Use study shows 9.4 acres. The 2008 and 2009 proposed land use plans show 5 acres for Garver. The parking has remained quite consistent throughout the various plans and, in fact, has increased by only 2/10ths of an acre from the original pre-1990 land use plan to the current plan. There is overflow parking of 1.5 acres that also calls for the elimination of the snow storage.

The softball complex is currently 13 acres and the 2008 proposed land use plan cuts that down to approximately 6.8 acres for two fields with more than 2 additional acres of open space for open field warm-ups or pickup games outside the designated fenced softball area. The neighborhood park areas have remained constant throughout all revisions. The largest change is in maintained landscape that went from 35.7 acres in the pre-1990 plan down to 10.4 acres in the current plans. There were no natural areas in the 2000 Master Plan and the latest version of the land use plan calls for 19.6 acres of natural landscape areas. Another change is incorporating 11 acres of natural shorelines that would include rain gardens and permeable surface along the shoreline. The proposal to eliminate one boat launch site has been consistent throughout all plans and parking would be eliminated for the launch north of Atwood Avenue. Finally, the beach area remains the same.

Some items not specifically addressed are a designated site for a dog park, bridges, connectivity, permeable pavement and rain garden sites. Those would be part of the master planning process, while the current plan is a general land use plan. Finally, Traffic Engineering confirmed that they would possibly allow parking on only the north side of Atwood Avenue during off peak hours. They believe there would be room for 35 parking spaces. Also, the owner of Kessenich's objects to any road on their property as proposed in the SASYNA plan.

Superintendent Briski asked Olbrich Botanical Gardens staff to give a short presentation on the vision for the gardens. Roberta Sladky, Director of Olbrich Botanical Gardens, and Jeff Epping, Director of Horticulture, provided information starting with a history of the Botanical Gardens.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens (OBG) is owned and operated by the City of Madison as part of the Parks Division in partnership with the Olbrich Botanical Society. It owes its existence to the dedicated vision of Michael Olbrich, Stan Hill and the Garden Center Club who lobbied Mayor Paul Soglin for the first garden center in the 1970s. Since the opening of the garden center addition and the Bolz Conservatory, many thousands of visitors have enjoyed the gardens over the past 20+ years. The growth of the botanical gardens has been in response to its many visitors and because Olbrich staff have been able to achieve high quality gardens thanks to the public-private partnership with the Olbrich Botanical Society (OBS) that provides a great deal of synergy.

In 1991 the Bolz Conservatory was built with capital contributions from OBS of \$3.45 million and the city's contribution of \$1.15 million. Additional capital contributions by OBS include: \$153,000 for garden development in 1992, \$1 million for gardens for the future in 1994, \$1 million for a garden land bank in 1997, and in 2001 \$18,000 for a Japanese courtyard. The Thai Sala and accompanying garden received \$4 million in 2002 and in 2005 the rose garden campaign garnered \$2 million, \$1 million of which was placed into an endowment to maintain that garden. Annual expenses for the Gardens are paid by both city and OBS funding. OBS expenses peaked in 2004 because of capital projects over and above the city's contribution.

Olbrich's vision states that "Olbrich Botanical Gardens (OBG) will be a locally treasured and globally renowned source of beauty and education celebrating the importance of plants in a sustainable world." This vision helps both staff and volunteers focus on those societal needs and encourages stewardship

and investment. OBG staff have seen an increased interest in gardening and in response to that interest have produced programs and exhibit gardens to educate the public.

In 2007 OBG met with community leaders and the public to identify goals in a 5-year program plan. The plan identified external and programmatic goals as well as internal goals that centered on gardens, visitor facilities, and programs. In order to support those various programming goals, collaboration, standards and capacity needs were also addressed.

Jeff Epping, Director of Horticulture spoke about visions for the future of the garden complex. As he spoke, he presented slides showing different types of gardens that are already present or could be incorporated into Olbrich's grounds. The underlying concept of all the projects implemented at the Gardens, focus on becoming more organic each year as environmentally friendly sustainable gardening methods are used. OBG also incorporates integrated pest management practices to control pests. The Great American Lawn is an example to show the public other ways to manage lawns such as the fescue meadow which is a model for alternative lawns in Madison. They have also incorporated tall grass and short grass prairies near Garver to demonstrate those methods. Rain gardens are used to collect run-off water. Disease resistant plants are used throughout the gardens and are all labeled for visitors to see. The gardens incorporate different species of plants that promote biodiversity in its various gardens. Drought tolerant and pest resistant plants as well as beneficial insects provide examples for disease control. These ideas are also taken out into the community through workshops and classes to educate the public on how they can garden better in their own landscapes. Concepts such as composting and mulch using the leaves collected from Madison's citizens by the Streets Division are used throughout the gardens.

OBG will continue to celebrate the beauty of gardens for people of all ages to enjoy. In 2005, Olbrich Botanical Gardens received the Garden Excellence Award by the American Public Gardens Association. OBG is one of over 500 public gardens in the United States and has now been recognized for the quality of its gardens along with the Chicago Botanical Gardens and Missouri Botanical Gardens. OBG is not only a great resource for Madison but also for the region and throughout the country.

The vision for the future includes home demonstration and fruit and vegetable gardens. People want to know where their food comes from and want more knowledge, demonstrations and classes. It's important to get more young people involved through Children's Gardens and learning centers to teach youth the joy of gardening. When children come to the gardens they bring parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles with them. Dry gardens that use drought tolerant plants will address concerns about water usage. Examples of environmentally friendly parking lots and native plantings along shorelines can help prevent erosion and runoff into the lakes.

President Barker thanked everyone in the audience for coming to speak and reminded speakers of time limits.

Registered Speakers:

Karen Matteoni Supports Garver & dog park  
Tony Castaneda Opposes City Plan & elimination of ball fields  
Dan Matson Supports Expansion  
Michael D. Barrett Opposes City Plan  
Suzanne Sarah Forsberg Opposes City Plan

Chewning questioned the OBS President on whether it was possible that in 30 years Olbrich would want to grow more and the response was that if Madison keeps growing they would expect the Gardens to grow. Chewning asked if neighborhood associations received direct notification. LaFave explained the notification process that included a direct mailing to all residents surrounding the gardens, notification to the alders, posting on the Listservs, notices in the newspapers and community papers. At this point Wallner urged the Commission to listen to all of the testimony and then ask questions at the end.

Registered Speakers:

Kathleen Doherty Supports City Plan  
Patrick Soukup Opposes City Plan  
Ann Lacy Opposes City Plan  
Amanda Evenstone Opposes City Plan  
Elizabeth Ogren Erickson Supports City Plan  
Sadler Bell Opposes City Plan  
Kathy Soukup Opposes Eliminating ball fields  
T.R. Loon Supports Garver Incubator  
Jane LaFlash Supports City Plan  
Jayney Reuter Opposes City Plan  
Philip Forsberg Opposes City Plan  
Janet Loewi Supports City Plan  
Carrie Ezzell Opposes City Plan  
Dick Wagner Supports City Plan  
Andy Swartz Opposes City Plan  
Ald. Marsha Rummel Neutral  
Anne Gassere Opposes Eliminating ball fields  
Paul Williams Supports City Plan  
Al Mantano Opposes City Plan  
Lou Host Jablonski Opposes City Plan  
Anne Rodgers-Rhyme – not speaking Supports City Plan  
Kathie Nichols – not speaking Supports City Plan  
Beverly Spear – not speaking Opposes City Plan  
Dennis Birke – not speaking Supports City Plan  
Connie Beam Supports City Plan  
Sarah Kate Johnson – not speaking Supports City Plan  
Alex Aulisi Wants dog park  
Joel Creswell Supports Dog park in city plan  
Robert Paolino Oppose City Plan & Eliminating ball fields  
Cynthia Burnson Supports Dog Park  
Randy Coloni Opposes City Plan  
Billy McDuffee Opposes Eliminating ball fields

Following the speakers President Barker noted

3 Did not wish to speak In favor of removal of softball fields  
10 Did not wish to speak NOT in favor of removal of softball fields  
6 Did not wish to speak In favor of portion of Olbrich park for dog park

15 Did not wish to speak In favor of Olbrich Master Plan as presented by City  
8 Did not wish to speak NOT in favor of Olbrich Master Plan as presented by  
City

A brief recess was taken at 10:17 p.m. Meeting reconvened at 10:27 p. m.

Members present: Bill Barker, Betty Chewning, Janet Parker, Emanuel  
Scarbrough, Ald. Michael Schumacher, and David Wallner  
Members excused: Ald. Joe Clausius

Scarbrough stated he heard some disturbing statements such as “second class citizen, railroaded, common folk vs. hoity-toity.” He believes he has grown up with those types of issues more than anyone in the room. The focus of the comments has been on the softball fields and it is a very hot issue. Various speakers related personal experiences such as going and watching grandchildren play ball, and that was family. It’s a culture that people are used to, but if that area is only used as a community park, would you need four ball diamonds to satisfy the users. The current fields are locked and not available for pick-up games. A reservation is needed. What he has heard the neighbors say is that it is a physical part of their neighborhood and they would like to keep it. He spoke of changes that have occurred on his family’s land and while he would like it to look as it did years ago, he understands that time changes the way the land is used. He suggested that perhaps neighbors are nostalgic over what they are used to seeing. Statements have been made about the gardens going elsewhere or that softball players don’t want to go to Demetral Park. When looking at the financial picture, Olbrich ball fields need \$100,000 worth of lighting improvements, while Demetral needs \$30,000 worth of work. In this economic time, how would the Council vote. He also noted that the demographics for sports are changing; more people are playing soccer and other sports. If softball continues to decline, the fields may only be used for a 13 week season or tournaments. He asked the audience to think about their emotional involvement and think about the facts.

Chewning thanked the speakers for their eloquent words and acknowledged that the Olbrich Botanical Society members and directors are committed to the Gardens. She said she doesn’t remember a situation like this where two aldermanic districts were involved or where alders were overridden. If the staff plan is accepted she believes it will be the first time she has ever seen that happen. President Barker stated the Commission has overridden alders in the past. Chewning referred to the reconsideration of the Edgewood Drive issue at the request of the alder. In terms of the speakers from Olbrich, there were eleven people who spoke and at least eight were either Board members or former Board members and those speaking for OBS were either on their Board or paid staff. She felt this was a time for Parks staff to have done a better job of listening to people at the public meetings as she and Ald. Rummel heard the people saying something different than what is being presented by Parks staff. The plan was presented but alternatives were not weighed. There are many things with the current plan that she supports but there are also some key elements that the current plan is not responsive to.

A motion was made by Chewning/Parker to ask Parks staff to go back to the drawing board to reconsider what was heard at the public meetings to come up with a better plan.

Parker added that she is brand new and probably the least frustrated with this process. She believes Bauer's work is stellar and Olbrich is a superb facility. She is concerned that both alders and the neighborhood associations don't like the plan. With all the transition that has occurred in the Parks Division, she wondered if that hasn't put pressure on this plan and some additional time might allow for better consensus.

Wallner also thanked those present who have come to the meetings to discuss this topic. He mentioned the many different activities that he and his family enjoy at both the Botanical Center and throughout the park. He will vote for the staff plan and hopes that there is room for tweaking some changes, i.e. the parking on Atwood and the use of the North Platte. With regard to the issue of process, it is incumbent on us as citizens to stay informed. The Olbrich plan has been publicized through various media since last summer. The alders need to notify the leadership in neighborhoods and there has been lots of publicity on this issue. There have been at least 4 public meetings since last fall and the issues brought forward tonight have all been discussed.

Wallner continued that the elitism statements bother him and he finds those charges offensive. Olbrich is open to the public and it's not rich folk/poor folk, it's not a class issue. It costs \$25 or \$35 to be a member at the Gardens, that's not elitist at all. When he was an alder, not every vote went his way and he didn't expect to win every issue. Olbrich is a regional facility and has a wider benefit for the whole city even if two alders may disagree with the Parks plan. He believes that in years to come we will look back on the debate and say it was interesting debate but most of what was controversial will be resolved, a new dog park will be established on the eastside, there will be new and improved softball fields that will include these two fields, there will be an expanded garden that will be beautiful and will meet the needs of the entire area, the North Platte will be a great space for hiking and bird watching. No one got all that they wanted but the park will be much better. He believes we need to move on.

Schumacher continued that whenever two groups fight over a principle, in some ways both are right. There is no way to bridge the impasse short of acknowledging that one group has a better principle than the other and he is mindful of that fact. There is one botanical garden in this city. It would not be easy to move and it would also be very costly to move. He isn't even sure of another location where it could be moved. This botanical garden needs space to grow so they will know what they can plan for. He gives the Botanical Gardens a priority because it is the only one in town, and it cannot be moved. The softball fields can be moved. He cannot support the motion to refer the plan back to staff because he doesn't know what he would charge them with. He supports the city plan because he thinks it's the best plan currently available.

He is also mindful of the Garver Feed project and is aware of the lengthy discussions on that issue. It does impact the whole debate and changes the equation. He would like the Plan passed this evening so the next step can be a clean referendum for the Garver project. He understands there are some deed restrictions that have to be resolved.

He agrees with the statement by Commissioner Wallner that in the future the

conflict will pale in comparison with what Olbrich Gardens is able to achieve. A conflict looks and feels very intense when it is being experienced, but down the road people will say that it's better than they anticipated. He believes there is an opportunity to make this right and some of the current emotions will fade in the future and believe it will be a good decision.

President Barker spoke of the Garver process. There were 30 public meetings over a period of two years in a very open and participatory process. There was an exhaustive web site that contained every scrap of information on the net as has also been done in the Olbrich process.

This debate resonates with him because he is also President of his neighborhood association near Wingra Park. Last year the Parks Division came to him and said they were going to fill in the old ice rink with dredged material to make a soccer field. Even though he was opposed to the project, and as president of both the Park Commission and his neighborhood association, he believed he could stop the project if he wanted to, he didn't do anything. In his heart he understood that, for the good of the city, more soccer fields were needed.

His point is that the hardest thing a Park Commissioner can do is to keep the needs of the whole city in mind and set their own personal, more narrow views aside. From his perspective, the most important decision we make about this Land Use Plan is to decide, irrespective of Olbrich Botanical Society, what core recommendations does Parks staff make about what the Botanical Gardens need in order to continue its march toward international prominence. He understands that he's stretched the bounds of the partnership of Olbrich about as far as it can be when he advocated for an arts incubator in the park. He believes that it's a really good fit and if a organization wants to come in and turn it into an arts incubator with affordable space for working artists, that's a fabulous idea and it is compatible.

Parks are in competition with police and fire and all the other city agencies and needs to serve a broader purpose in the future if they are going to remain continuously competitive for shrinking budget dollars.

It is a complicated and difficult decision and he doesn't like having to go against the wishes of the neighborhood but this is a regional park and we all need to think about citywide needs.

The motion was then restated: A motion was made by Chewning/Parker to ask Parks staff to go back to the drawing board to reconsider what was heard at the public meetings to come up with a better plan.

Roll Call: Chewning – Yea, Parker – Yea, Barker, Nay, Scarbrough Nay, Schumacher Nay, Wallner Nay. Motion failed.

A motion was made by Wallner/Schumacher to adopt the Olbrich Land Use Plan as presented by Parks staff and shown on the map dated March 2, 2009.

Schumacher added that alders do get overridden and provided the example of the Mallards fireworks that both he and Alder Rhodes-Conway were opposed to but were overruled by the balance of the Park Commission. Both alders received a barrage of complaints but this was the democratic process.



Scarborough expressed concern about people that don't have a voice as many other people do. It was difficult for him to listen to the community say that they were second class citizens and that they were railroaded. He always votes his conscience and his conscience says that he is voting for community, city, regional, state, and international interests.

He also spoke about overriding alders requests and recalled the issue of the Mayor's desire to sell land under Lincoln School. The Mayor asked for reconsideration of a vote and came and spoke to the Park Commission. The Park Commission unanimously disagreed with the Mayor's request.

Roll Call vote: Chewning Nay, Parker, Nay, Scarborough Aye, Schumacher Aye, Wallner Aye. Barker chose not to vote because it was not a tie. MOTION CARRIED on simple majority.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

the meeting adjourned at 10:59 p.m.