



# City of Madison

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

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Wednesday, February 10, 2010

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

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### I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Madison Board of Park Commissioners was held on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Avenue. President Barker called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Present: 7 -

Joseph R. Clausius; Paul E. Skidmore; William W. Barker; David L. Wallner; Betty Chewning; Emanuel Scarbrough and Janet Parker

Parks staff present: Superintendent Kevin Briski, Steve Doniger, Eric Knepp, Kay Rutledge, Ray Shane, LaVonne LaFave and Laura Whitmore

### II. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

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

Long Range Planning and the Names Subcommittee – Clausius and Wallner. Grant Frautschi was appointed to represent the Madison Parks Foundation on the committee.

Facilities, Programs and Fees – Skidmore and Wallner

Habitat Stewardship/Tree Board - Parker

Golf - Scarbrough

Warner Park Community Recreation Center - Barker

Olbrich Botanical Society - Scarbrough

Two Appointments to the Madison Parks Foundation - Clausius and Wallner

He also noted that Chewning serves on the Community Gardens Committee.

### III. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Superintendent Briski announced that because the meeting in December was canceled, the December employee of the month has not yet been recognized in front of the Commission. That employee is Laura Whitmore. He thinks the world of her approach and professionalism. She handles hundreds of volunteers as well as the communications for the Division. One of the challenges he gave her was to prepare a monthly newsletter and to establish

an electronic communication process. She worked on the branding campaign that came up with the logo "Play Madison Parks". She also prepares the PowerPoint presentations for him.

Whitmore stated that it is an honor to be recognized. She writes the articles on the Employee of the Month for the newsletter and every person has stated it was an honor to be chosen, and now she also can make that statement. It is nice to be recognized for all the work that is done in the department.

Superintendent Briski then announced that the Employee of the Month for February is Dan Pottinger. He's been putting in a lot of overtime with the recent snowfalls and that's why he isn't here this evening to receive his award. Pottinger has a tremendous work ethic and takes lots of pride in his work.

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Skidmore/Clausius to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 13, 2010 of the Park Commission. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### **V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

#### **VI. REPORTS**

##### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A motion was made by Parker/Wallner to accept the Minutes of the following Subcommittees as a group. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

September 8, 2009 meeting of the Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee.  
December 1, 2009 meeting of the Long Range Planning Subcommittee  
December 15, 2009 meeting of the Olbrich Botanical Society  
November 19, 2009 meeting of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Subcommittee

Wallner commented that the Long Range Planning Subcommittee chaired by former Park Commissioner Steve Webster is doing good work. Comments were also made regarding the article on fruit trees that appeared in the paper recently and the enormous cooperation the group is receiving from Parks staff. In response to a question regarding the grant referred to in the Habitat Stewardship minutes, it was noted that it was not submitted. Marla Eddy, City Forester, put in a tremendous effort in pulling information together to complete the application but was working under a short deadline and could not finish some pieces of it through no fault of hers. She could not obtain some of the information and numbers requested in the grant. It was suggested that possibly the surrounding cities could all go in as a metropolitan area group.

E. President of the Park Commission

President Barker had no additional comments.

F. [17364](#) written Report of Supervisor's Activities

**Written Report**

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

**Informational Items**

Madison Parks Newsletter was distributed.

Revenue on cross country ski annual permits is up over \$7,000 from the previous year. In fact, additional annual passes needed to be ordered because the original order was sold out. Many comments have been received applauding the maintenance staff for their excellent ski trail maintenance. Concession revenue is also way up.

**Reminder - Volunteer Recognition Event on March 1**

The invitations to this event were sent electronically. The Madison Parks Foundation and MG&E are sponsoring the event and new this year will be Volunteer of the Year, Volunteer Project of the Year and Employee of the Year awards.

The Adopt the Ice program was recognized in Athletic Business, a national periodical. Doniger was interviewed for the article. This program was discussed at the last Long Range Planning Subcommittee meeting. It was reported that there was a volunteer(s) for every sheet of ice in the parks system. There were volunteers out shoveling after every snowfall this winter. There has been a grass roots groundswell of support for this program.

It was reported that the Madison Winter Festival will be held February 20-21, 2010 on the Capitol Square and in conjunction with that will be a "Kids' W.O.W. (Wander Outside this Winter) Challenge" supported by the Parks Division. Festival guides were distributed.

A question was asked about how long it will be for the reconstruction of the road coming into Warner Park. The project has been approved and Parks staff are working with Engineering on this.

The Parks Division carpenters (Bill Christoph and Pete Polodna) constructed the lovely table we are using for the Park Commission meetings. They built it with available wood processed through the Forestry section. Commissioners requested that their appreciation for this "Awesome" table be conveyed to the carpenters.

[17365](#)

2010 Policies and Procedures of the City of Madison Board of Park Commissioners

The revised policies and procedures that were approved in January were included in the packets. Superintendent Briski is distributing them to each subcommittee at their first meeting of the year. Commissioners expressed appreciation for the work done on them.

**VII. COMMUNICATIONS (Correspondence, Resolutions, Ordinances)**

- A. [17085](#) Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a lease with Community Action Coalition of South Central Wisconsin, Inc. for a portion of the public greenway located at 702 McCormick Avenue for use as community gardens.

**This Resolution was Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, due back on 2/17/2010**

- B. [17285](#) Amending the Park Division's 2010 Capital Budget and authorizing the Mayor and the City Clerk to sign a Grant Agreement with the United States Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service for habitat development at Olin-Turville Conservation Park.

**This Resolution was Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES, due back on 2/15/2010**

**This is the grant to weed out invasive materials in Olin Turville Park. Bids came in favorably and allowed the Parks Division to do more work than originally planned. Additionally the grant will enable us to do even more work. Russ Hefty, our Conservation Resources Manager is managing that project.**

- C. [17366](#) Mallards requests

**Superintendent Briski stated that Parks Division staff have no problems with any of the proposed projects. The orientation of the bleachers is a little off, and the thought is to angle them better to view the action on the field of play. The Mallards have about 250 recycled seats from Wrigley Field that they propose to use for this project. A concrete apron approach will also be installed that will lift the bleachers up to the angle of play and make them ADA accessible with the installation of ramps. The wall in front is the first portion of a multiyear approach to establish a new perimeter to the field. All improvements will be paid for by the Mallards exclusively and will become a City of Madison asset upon completion. The improvements also meet with both Alders Rhodes-Conway and Schumacher's approval.**

**Not all of the items listed on the promotion sheet have been confirmed yet. The Mallards have also gotten rid of the loud fireworks.**

**The Mallards are replacing the sound system with a new system that addresses neighborhood concerns. It will double the number of speakers throughout the stadium to allow them to broadcast the game at a lower level. The current system has fewer speakers, and they have to use a higher volume**

in order for all patrons to hear the game. The new system will broadcast down and direct the sound, allowing better distribution and direction. He is not certain if sound cancellation technology will be implemented as part of this upgrade.

With regard to the promotions, it was noted that there will be a PBS documentary on the history of black soldiers who fought on behalf of our country in wars. The first person to die for liberty in this country was a black person. The item on the promotion list is Negro League Night. This would present a good opportunity to educate people on the history of the Negro Baseball League. A shadow ball game was mentioned. Finally, it was noted that the Mallards are celebrating their 10 year anniversary this year.

Registered Speaker:

Vern Stenman, Mallards General Manager in support

A motion was made by Skidmore/Clausius to approve the numerous improvements to the stadium and grounds; hosting four fireworks shows on June 5 & 19, July 24 and 31, 2010 and one laser light show on June 12, 2010, the list of proposed promotional events in 2010 and hosting the annual Alumni Game on either August 13, 14, 27 or 28. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### VIII. NEW BUSINESS

##### A. [17367](#) Overview of Wis DOT Verona Road Project

Rutledge reported that last year Parks received information from WisDOT on this project which will impact one of our parks, Britta Park. The Parks staff response to the WisDOT proposal is part of the packets and addresses the adverse impacts on Britta Park, the alternatives that were considered, and the mitigation requirements and options that were suggested. Part of Parks response required that the DOT present their project to the Park Commission for their review and comment.

Registered Speakers:

Tom Lynch of Strand Associates, DOT Consultant

Larry Barta, WisDOT Project Manager

Lynch and Barta presented a broad overview of the project as well as a detailed plan for mitigation for Britta Park. The entire project would involve three stages, beginning in 2013 with final implementation in approximately 2030. The DOT staged this project so the most dramatic improvements will only be constructed when they are needed; before moving forward with Stage 3 it will have to be reevaluated because an environmental impact statement is only good for 3 years. Stage 3 would require a portion of Britta Parkway for the frontage road. The 1972 Uniform Relocation Act sets out the procedure to compensate owners for lands taken for roadways.

In Stage 3 the frontage road would travel through the north half of Britta Park. Britta Park has no play equipment but does have park benches and mature trees. Approximately 60% to 75% of the park would be acquired, depending on the extent and placement of sidewalk and whether or not there would be a

terrace between the street and sidewalk. The remaining park would still have value as a screening element to separate the remaining homes from the frontage road; however, it would no longer serve a recreational purpose.

Federal Highway Administration Section 4(f) regulations require that the DOT look at alternatives to avoid acquiring land from a park. These alternatives were presented. Possible mitigation options, including the addition of recreational equipment to DeVolis Parkway, were also discussed. The DOT hopes to have a memorandum of agreement with the city by June, prior to the public hearing on the final environmental impact statement scheduled for September.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Scarborough to refer this issue to the April meeting to allow Ald. Solomon and the affected neighborhood to become engaged and discuss the mitigation proposal.

Park Commission discussion began with a statement of concern that if this plan goes through the neighborhood will no longer exist. Skidmore stated there was very little in the plan that he could support and inquired whether any presentation had been made to Long Range Transportation Planning Committee (no), to MPO (yes), to Ped-Bike-Motor Vehicle Committee (yes). This proposal would alter the character of the park and it would no longer be usable as a neighborhood park; the mitigation techniques were not acceptable to him. While you can find land elsewhere you can't replace land for recreational purposes in that fragile neighborhood next to Allied Drive. He understood the need for the project, but in looking at what it would do to the park and that neighborhood, he would like the issue referred.

Parker agreed with the above statements but believed that DOT had done a good job of studying different options. She was against the whole project and did not want to see roads expanded to get to homes in the country that should never have been built on farmland. The stages make sense and hopefully will never be needed. She is not in favor of destroying a neighborhood park.

It was pointed out that the city is looking at high speed rail and other forms of alternative transportation in the city. Commissioners questioned whether some type of rail had been built into the plan to bring people into the neighborhood rather than people having to get there by car. Barta responded that Stages 1 and 2 do not have express lanes for buses or rail components but what is being proposed does not preclude them from being inserted into the plan. There is room along the Verona Road corridor at the present time for those transportation options.

President Barker inquired whether this plan has been presented to the neighborhood, and specifically what will happen to the parkway? The project presenters replied that there have been more than 60 meetings and they will continue, though the focus of the discussions have been on the earlier stages so far. Regarding park impacts, the mitigation could be agreed to now and implemented in 2013 that would give the neighborhood 20 years of life before the project occurs or there could be a loose agreement that says if Stage 3 occurs, then these things would happen and negotiation would be reopened at that time.

Commissioners want to hear from the neighborhood that they understand

what's going to happen as this project moves forward because the character of the park and neighborhood will be changed. Some members indicated they were not really against the project and understand something needs to be done but want to receive more input. A motion was made by Skidmore/Scarborough to refer this issue to the April meeting to allow Ald. Solomon and the affected neighborhood to become engaged and discuss the mitigation proposal.

At this point Scarborough called the question. President Barker restated the motion: A motion was made by Skidmore/Scarborough to refer this issue to the April meeting to allow Ald. Solomon and the affected neighborhood to become engaged and discuss the mitigation proposal. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Parks staff were requested to contact Alder Solomon and also to get information to the people in the neighborhood on what will happen to the Park.

B. [17368](#)

2009 Parks Division Pesticide Report

Commissioners requested comments on the chemicals being used on golf courses.

Superintendent Briski stated this report is really informational and follows the policy set forth by the city.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 8:14 p.m.