



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 14, 2024

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 14, 2024. President Harrington called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Members Present: Ald. Yanette Figueroa Cole; Moira Harrington; Catie McDonald; Chandra Miller Fienen; and Michelle Probst.

Members Absent: Ald. Charles Myadze and Ben Williams.

Alders Present: Ald. Derek Field.

Parks Staff Present: Eric Knepp; Lisa Laschinger; and Joanne Austin.

City Staff Present: Katie Crawley, Mayor's Office; Urvashi Martin, Dan McAuliffe, and Ben Zellers (Planning).

- 2 [84586](#) Approval of the Minutes of the July 10, 2024 Board of Park Commissioners meeting.

Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Figueroa Cole, to Approve the Minutes of the July 10, 2024 Board of Park Commissioners meeting. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

- 3 [84585](#) Public Comment

There were no registrants for Public Comment.

4 DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

REPORTS

- 5 President of the Park Commission

President Harrington indicated she did not have a report for this month.

- 6 Superintendent of Parks

Superintendent Eric Knepp expressed gratitude to the Board of Park Commissioners for accommodating a formal business meeting this month. Knepp indicated that the Goodman Pool is closed indefinitely while staff work through an incident.

7 [84680](#) August 2024 Superintendent's Report

Knepp presented a short report.

Registered speaker Jessica L Alter intended to register for item 11 and will speak then.

Motion made by Probst, seconded by Figueroa Cole, to Accept the Report. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

8 [84681](#) Report of the Minutes of the July 17, 2024 Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee.

Motion made by Miller Fienen, seconded by Figueroa Cole, to Accept the Minutes. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

9 **NEW BUSINESS**

Note: Items 10 and 11 are related and will be considered as one item for public comment. Registrants will have 3 minutes total to speak related to these items. Following public comment, the Board of Park Commissioners shall make separate findings and motions on each agenda item.

10 [84382](#) Adopting an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan related to the Northeast Area Plan.

Ald. Charles Myadze arrived at 6:40 PM.

Members Present (6): Ald. Yanette Figueroa Cole; Moira Harrington; Catie McDonald; Ald. Charles Myadze; Chandra Miller Fienen; Michelle Probst. Members Absent (1): Ben Williams

Dan McAuliffe of City Planning provided overview of the Northeast Area Plan and was available to answer questions.

Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Probst, to RETURN TO LEAD WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL TO THE PLAN COMMISSION with the exception that the proposed "Nakoosa Trail" road extension through Sycamore Park be removed from the plan.

Common Council President Yanette Figueroa Cole clarified that this is a plan, not a project.

Motion passed by the following vote:

Approve (4): McDonald, Miller Fienen, Myadze; and Probst. Oppose (1): Figueroa Cole.

- 11 [84379](#) Adopting the Northeast Area Plan, adopting an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan and archiving underlying plans.
- Registered speaker Brian Wendt spoke in opposition.**
Registered speaker Kerry McAllen of Burke Heights Neighborhood Association spoke in opposition.
Registered speaker Jessica L Alter spoke in opposition and was available to answer questions.
Registrant Eric Gertner was in opposition.
Registrant Athena Salzer was in opposition.
- Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by McDonald, to RETURN TO LEAD WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL TO THE PLAN COMMISSION.**
Motion passed by voice vote/other.

Note: Items 12 and 13 are related and will be considered as one item for public comment. Registrants will have 3 minutes total to speak related to these items. Following public comment, the Board of Park Commissioners shall make separate findings and motions on each agenda item.

- 12 [84377](#) Adopting the West Area Plan, adopting an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan and archiving underlying plans.
- Ben Zellers of City Planning presented the plan.**
- Registrant Janet Hirsch was in opposition.**
- Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Probst, to RETURN TO LEAD WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL TO THE PLAN COMMISSION. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**
- 13 [84383](#) Adopting an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan related to the West Area Plan.
- Registered speaker Edmond Drewsen spoke in opposition.**
Registered speaker Susan Bruegman spoke in opposition.
Registered speaker Jayne E Meyer spoke in opposition.
Registered speaker Gwen Long was in opposition.
Registered speaker Rosanne Shih was in opposition and available to answer questions.
Registered speaker Anthony Nino Amato was in opposition and available to answer questions.
Registrant Andrea Peterson Straus was in opposition.
Registrant Andy Pierz was in opposition.
Registrant Amy Nichelason was in opposition.
Registrant Ellen Schneiderman was in opposition.
Registrant Jim Long was in opposition.
Registrant Bonnie Roe was in opposition.
Registrant Judy Bluel was in opposition.
Registrant Ilene Seltzer was in opposition.
Registrant Janet Hirsch was in opposition.
Registrant Jenny Iskandar was in opposition.
Registrant Faith Fitzpatrick was in opposition.
Registrant Louie Cornelius was in opposition.

Registrant Jennifer Rygiewicz was in opposition.
Registrant Damon Rygiewicz was in opposition.
Registrant Mary Susan Stark was in opposition.
Registrant Josh Paul was in opposition.
Registrant Scott Diaczun was in opposition.
Registrant Peggy Sue Scallon was in opposition.

Motion made by Miller Fienen, seconded by Figueroa Cole, to RETURN TO LEAD WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL TO THE PLAN COMMISSION. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

- 14 [84704](#) Informational presentation and discussion regarding future management of Thorstrand Estate in Marshall Park
- Registered speaker Tyler Leeper of Marshall Boats spoke in opposition. Robert C Procter of Polly O'Hare Revocable Living Trust (owner of the Thorstrand Estate) spoke in support.
- Commission discussed and generally supported staff proceeding with updating the lease terms.
- 15 [84606](#) Authorizing the City's execution of a Seventh Amendment to Lease, pertaining to the City's master community gardens lease with Rooted WI, Inc., for the purpose of expanding the community garden area at Waunona Park. (District 14)
- Knepp provided overview of lease amendment and was available to answer questions.
- Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Myadze, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**
- 16 [84706](#) Informational Presentation Regarding the 2025 Operating Budget Request and Process
- Knepp provided overview of Parks Division's Agency submission and current status of the Operating Budget and was available to answer questions.
- Deputy Mayor Katie Crawley provided comments regarding the Operating Budget and referenced slides from a Rotary presentation.
- 17 **ADJOURNMENT**
- Motion made by Myadze, seconded by Probst, to Adjourn at 9:48 PM. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**