



City of Madison

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

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

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

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 4 -
Madelyn D. Leopold; Joseph R. Clausius; William W. Barker and Emanuel
Scarbrough

Excused: 3 -
Paul E. Skidmore; David L. Wallner and Betty Chewning

The regular meeting of the Madison Board of Park Commissioners was held on
Wednesday, November 10, 2010 at Warner Park Community Recreation Center,
1625 Northport Avenue.

President Barker called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. A quorum was
present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Parks staff present: Steve Doniger, Eric Knepp, Kay Rutledge, Bill Bauer,
LaVonne LaFave, Jim Weinstock

City Staff present: Michael Waidelich, Archie Nicolette, David Kress, Planning
Dept.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Clausius/Leopold to approve the Minutes of the
October 13, 2010 regular meeting of the Park Commission. **MOTION CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY.**

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Registered speakers:

Lori Chadli Opposes killing of resident Canada geese in Warner Park
Jim Carrier Opposes Cyclocross

Following the speaker, Park Commissioners expressed concern about bikers
continuing to ride in the park. Doniger indicated he would have the Rangers
monitor the situation and he would also contact the race promoter regarding
this issue.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - 6:45 p.m.

**Diseased and Dead Elms and Oaks on Private Property, 2010 Requiring
Condemnation**

The hearing was declared open. There were no registrants. The hearing was declared closed. A motion was made by Scarbrough/Clausius to recommend that the list of diseased and dead elms and oaks be declared a public nuisance according to City of Madison General Ordinance 23.40 (4)(b) and recommend approval of condemnation and direct the City Forester to issue removal notices. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Hearing on Appeal of Encroachment Violation in Vilas Park by Kendall and
Angeline Kiley**

Kay Rutledge, Planning & Development Manager, reported that the property owners have appealed the violation notice that was sent to them on October 7, 2010 indicating the encroachments into Vilas Park. A survey was prepared in 2007 that identified the encroachments. They received a letter regarding the encroachments back in 2008 when they applied for a building permit for an addition. At that time they were instructed to remove all encroachments. Our Parks surveyor resurveyed the property in 2010 after Parks received notification that the encroachments continued. The retaining wall was extended and steps leading into the park occurred after the 2008 letter.

Registered Speakers:

Todd Kiley In support of Appeal
Angie Kiley In support of Appeal
Maureen Kiley In support of Appeal

Commissioners asked for clarification on the various encroachments and their relationship to the lot line. Pictures were distributed showing those features. They understood the property owners wanting a nice backyard and that the fence kept children safe and were sympathetic about the rock wall that is to keep dirt from the park from coming into their yard. However the addition on the house and the removal of the cistern have created differences in the topography. They referred back to the letter of 2008 that stated the encroachments were to be removed prior to the addition being constructed.

The Park Commission has stated in prior meetings that encroachments cannot be allowed to continue once discovered and if an exception is made for one it sets a precedent. They try to be good stewards of public resources. They cannot be good stewards if they allow the encroachments to remain. It was noted that the prior Planning and Development Manager told them to remove the iron fence and to install a fence at their property line. The current Planning and Development Manager indicated that it might be possible to regrade that edge of the park to mitigate the dirt issue. It was also suggested that the rock wall might be able to be left in place but that the fence needed to be moved to the property line.

A motion was made by Clausius/Scarbrough to deny the appeal of the encroachment violation into Vilas Park by Kendall and Angeline Kiley. Further Parks staff are directed to work with the property owners on an equitable

**solution to the slope of the park at the property line. MOTION CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**

PUBLIC COMMENTS, Continued

Registered speakers, continued:

Trish O’Kane Opposes Cyclocross

**Timothy Garrett Relations between Parks Division and Wild Warner relative
to geese**

**Park Commissioners requested that the Cyclocross Issue be placed on the
December meeting agenda.**

**It was noted that the Parks Division is holding input sessions regarding the
goose issue. No formal committee has been established and it was not the
intention to exclude any group.**

IV. REPORTS

Elver Park Fireworks Planning Team

**A motion was made by Scarbrough/Clausius to accept the Minutes of the
August 12, 2010 wrap up meeting of the Elver Park Fireworks Planning Team.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee

**A motion was made by Clausius/Scarbrough to accept the Minutes of the May
4, 2010 Meeting of the Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee. MOTION CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY.**

Olbrich Botanical Society

**A motion was made by Scarbrough/Clausius to accept the Minutes of the
September 21, 2010 Meeting of the Olbrich Botanical Society. MOTION
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Rhythm & Booms Planning Team

**A motion was made by Scarbrough/Clausius to accept the Minutes of the
August 12, 2010 wrap up meeting of the Rhythm & Booms Planning Team.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Commissioners commented that the R & B organizers need to look at the
reality of the community and that people are not coming out as early to take in
the carnival and vendors but coming to watch the fireworks. They felt that the
city could support fireworks on both sides of town in as much as they
occurred on different days. Doniger interjected that the Elver Fireworks is a
Parks Division event with sponsorship from Woodman’s.**

**Leopold added that information was presented relative to fireworks pollution at
the Habitat Meeting and would be reflected in their minutes.**

President of the Park Commission.

President Barker reported that he attended the dedication of the renovated

Elizabeth (Lisa) Link Peace Park last Saturday. Several hundred people attended the event. Hawk's restaurant donated brats to everyone who attended. It is really nice to see the park being used appropriately.

He also attended the WPRA Awards ceremony in LaCrosse last Thursday and received the Association's Fellowship Award. He noted that while it is nice to have our process validated, the award is really in recognition of the hard work that all involved have accomplished.

Superintendent of Parks

Written Report of Supervisor's Activities

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

Informational Items

Knepp reported that the Madison Parks Newsletter was not complete. It will be e-mailed next week. Scott Cramer is the November Employee of the Month. He will be recognized in front of his peers. A memo from City Attorney Michael May was distributed that explained the new Disclosure and Recusal information under the Ethics Code that was approved by the Common Council last night. There is nothing new to report on the Shady Woods Plan.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Information and Discussion on the Draft Recommendations for the Downtown Plan

Planning Staff Speakers:

NAME

Michael Waidelich	Provided information
Archie Nicolette	Provided information
David Kress	Provided Information

Planning staff presented information on the overview and draft recommendations for the Downtown Plan that they have been working on for at least the last three years. They have held many public meetings in order to gather input on what citizens felt was important for the Downtown. Following those meetings, they looked at alternatives for housing, economic development and open spaces and put together initial draft recommendations. Following the initial draft another round of public meetings were held with neighborhood groups and city commissions. Following that second round of meetings this past summer, the booklet containing an overview of objectives and draft recommendations was completed. Planning staff are now gathering comments on the contents of that booklet and following this next round of meetings will begin drafting the actual plan.

Tonight the key elements regarding open space, recreation, culture and entertainment will be presented showing the objectives for recreation components. They are interested in hearing comments from the Park Commission on these sections.

The City's Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2006 contains a Park and Open

Space section and those major ideas are incorporated into this plan. The downtown area does not have adequate park and open space facilities to serve the community living and working in it. It may require acquiring property that the city doesn't own.

One of the recurring comments that was heard in the meetings was to have better facilities to promote year round use of the lakefronts, and in particular Law Park. Planning staff looked at the 1990 plans for the John Nolen portion of Law Park and determined that many of those recommendations have been implemented, but some remain undone.

Nicolette talked about Law Park and the possible improvements that could occur all the way around the lakes. He also spoke about creating a new park in the interior of the area under consideration. They would like to combine a link between Brittingham Park, the lake and Campus mall. There is also a lake side path proposed that would connect Picnic Point and James Madison Park.

A key feature is the development of Law Park to try to create a more vibrant active lakeshore so people can participate in water activities and expand the influence of Monona Terrace by creating a theme to produce a more cohesive flow. The proposed plan suggests that the Frank Lloyd Wright boathouse be built in Law Park.

John Nolen Drive is an area people remember when they visit because of the vista coming into the city. They reviewed the plan produced in 1986 for Law Park that was approved by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Wisconsin DNR that involved filling in about 2 acres of the lake in front of Monona Terrace. . Some concern was expressed about filling the lake as President Barker noted that Lake Monona had also been filled in along Olbrich Park many years ago. The 1986 plan was put on the back burner because of building the Convention Center. That plan added rain gardens, reduced parking stalls and cleaned up the intersection at Broom Street and the dog park and tennis courts by that intersection. They would like to enhance the area by improving the park at the location, relocating the basketball court to the west and expanding the dog park and creating some upscale amenities so that dogs can interact, such as ramps and water sources. In response to a question about the use of the tennis courts at Broom Street they learned that students use them. They also noted that much has been learned about how to design elements in open spaces to inhibit problems with certain behaviors..

Again, people want better access to the lakes and they are working to create amenities that will make it easier for people to get to the lakes. Use of the lakes transcends age and income levels.

Brittingham Park beach and beach house are amenities that could be repurposed. There are no longer lifeguards at the beach and the beach house has been closed and is no longer used. The concession building could be used for the sale of coffee, ice cream or a sandwich shop. It could be used for rentals for small sailboats, canoes and/or kayaks. The bay would feel safer for people who are just beginning those activities. It could pose a conflict for anglers but these uses occur at Vilas Park and are compatible. Commissioners expressed the desire that the promotion of fishing along that area continue.

Discussion turned to the new park being proposed at West Johnson and

Dayton Streets, North Bassett and the Doubletree hotel. The city does not currently own any of that property but it is not well developed, containing only parking and a couple of small building. It would be about 1.75 acres in size. This is in an area of town with the most people and is identified as park deficient.

Part of the path that could connect James Madison Park and Picnic Point is already in place along the Lake Mendota shore. If the path were formalized it could incorporate the various street ends to provide piers, pocket park areas with benches and picnic tables and be well lit for safety. Many of the sewers go back to 1906-1910 and Engineering needs to upgrade them. When those easements are obtained Planning would work with Engineering to put in the path extensions at that time. There was a brief discussion about the path and homeowners not wanting citizens walking through their backyards. They would also like to see it preserved as a more informal space.

In summary, Law Park is the primary area that people are interested in seeing improved, followed by access to the lakes and then the development of additional park space. It was suggested that Park Commissioners review the Big Ideas and Recreation/Culture/Entertainment portions of the Downtown Plan Overview and Draft Recommendations. The Planning Department staff would appreciate comments from the Park Commission following that review.

A motion was made by Clausius/Scarborough to take the Request of Shelly Richardson out of order. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Request of Shelby Richardson of United States Amateur Tug of War Association to host the National Tug of War Competition at Olin Park on July 23, 2011.

A motion was made by Scarborough/Clausius to approve the request of Shelby Richardson of United States Amateur Tug of War Association to host the National Tug of War Competition at Olin Park on July 23, 2011. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Linden Grove Park Master Plan Approval

Bill Bauer, Parks Landscape Architect, presented information regarding the proposed master plan for Linden Grove Park which is the latest phase of the Cherokee condo development on the Northside. This is a small, neighborhood park of approximately 3 acres that would incorporate a palate of sport courts, playground and open play area. The name comes from a grove of linden trees on the east side of the park. Members of the condo association have volunteered their time at the park this past summer to clear out all of the invasives in the grove. The volunteers are also planning to conduct some fundraising to add to amenities in the park. A sidewalk will run thru the park connecting the east and west properties. It was suggested that some type of permeable walk be constructed through the wooded area to provide an accessible walkway for the assisted living residents.

A motion was made by Clausius/Scarborough to approve the Master Plan. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. [20445](#)

Authorizing a contract between the City and the Madison Metropolitan School District for the provision of programming by Madison School and Community Recreation at Warner Park Community and Recreation Center

for 2011. (AD#12)

This Resolution was Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES, due back on 11/22/2010

A motion was made by Scarbrough/Leopold to approve Resolution ID#20445 authorizing a contract between the City and the Madison Metropolitan School District for the provision of programming by Madison School and Community Recreation at Warner Park Community Recreation Center for 2011. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Clausius/Scarbrough the meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.