



City of Madison
Proceedings - Final
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

6:30 PM

1625 Northport Dr. (WPCRC)

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CALL TO ORDER

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Santiago Rosas, Paul E. Skidmore, William Barker, Stephen A. Webster, Betty Chewing, Emanuel Scarbrough and Betty N. MacDonald

Parks staff present: James Morgan, Si Widstrand, Elinor Riley, LaVonne LaFave and Donald Studesville

City staff present: Don Marx, Real Estate

President Scarbrough called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed. President Scarbrough expressed his appreciation to Warner Park Community Recreation Center personnel for the floral arrangements and treats at this evening's meeting.

II. APPOINTMENTS TO STANDING COMMITTEES

President Scarbrough announced that the appointments to the standing Park Commission committees were listed on the Agenda. They are as follows:

- A. Long Range Planning - Bill Barker & Steve Webster
- B. Facilities, Programs and Fees - Paul Skidmore & Santiago Rosas
- C. Habitat Stewardship / Tree Board - Bill Barker
- D. Golf - Emanuel Scarbrough

- E. Warner Park Community Recreation Center - Steve Webster
- F. Olbrich Botanical Society - Betty Chewning
- G. Two Appointments to the Madison Parks Foundation - Betty MacDonald & Emanuel Scarbrough

A motion was made by MacDonald/Webster to accept the appointments as presented by President Scarbrough. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

LaFave noted that two words were inadvertently omitted in the motion found on page 5 and asked Commissioners to please insert the words "on file" prior to the words "to place" in line one of paragraph 4 so that the motion reads: A motion was made by Barker/Skidmore to place on file substitute Resolution #04950. A motion was made by Barker/MacDonald to approve the Minutes of the January 10, 2007 regular meeting of the Park Commission as amended. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Olbrich Botanical Society Minutes of December 12, 2006 Meeting

A motion was made by Rosas/MacDonald to accept the Minutes of the December 12, 2006 meeting of the Olbrich Botanical Society. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

VI. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARK COMMISSION

President Scarbrough stated the last meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Alcohol and Related Behaviors in City Parks did not meet due to lack of quorum. That meeting will be rescheduled in the near future.

VII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS

- A. Written Report of Supervisor's Activities

A motion was made by Skidmore/Webster to approve the written report. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

- B. Informational Items

Superintendent Morgan referred to page 7 of the Written Report under Program Coordination/Permanent Employees. This section appears in every monthly report. A staffing study of the Parks Division was included in the adoption of the 2007 operating budget. We can graph the growth in acreage and this allows us to also graph the decline in available staff. In the absence of Andrew Statz of the Mayor's office, Superintendent Morgan reported the study is looking at types of

parks and the amount of labor through 2012. The Parks staff can be to project what park acreage total build out will be when looking at the next 10 years as well as how parks are used. This information will be used to begin strategic discussions of what it will take to keep the park system operational both in terms of people power and budgets. The study will also allow comparison to our peer cities such as Ann Arbor MI and Lincoln NE. In general terms, Madison has more acreage per population than comparable cities and Madison's per capita expenditures for staff and equipment are in the lower quadrants. Our park system can accomplish much of what it does thanks to a large cadre of volunteers.

The packets included the Landowner Notification Letter regarding Gypsy Moth Spray Blocks. Our Forestry section is actively engaging the community to discuss tree spraying. There have been speakers in support of the program at the public hearings. It is a well-designed plan. Commissioners noted the letter of explanation was very well done and congratulated City Forester Marla Eddy on its content.

He then spoke of Bill Thompson's death. He had served on the Park Commission many years ago and in the past several years had been more closely involved in the Olbrich Botanical Society Board. He and Bill spent a great deal of time together during Superintendent Morgan's first year in Madison. He was a professional historian and advised of the pitfalls of public service in Madison. Superintendent Morgan greatly valued their time together. This was an individual who had a statewide academic impact and was a shrewd political strategist.

Superintendent Morgan referred to the letter from Dick Adam dated February 5, 2007 regarding Warner Stadium/School District/Little League issues. He is really looking for a way to get lower stadium fees for School District users. At the Warner Stadium Renovation Committee meetings over the past several weeks there have been lots of issues raised about the disadvantages of the east side high schools having to pay to use Warner Stadium while the west side schools don't have to pay to use Mansfield Stadium. Obviously somewhere in the school budget the maintenance costs of Mansfield Stadium is included. The letter is requesting a subsidy from the city to the school system. As brought out during the Warner Stadium Committee meetings the school district is already subsidized about 60% per game when looking at actual costs to maintain the fields vs. the fee the school district pays. The Parks Division subsidizes youth sports because it provides a citywide benefit. In the last 6 years Parks has raised fees to recover 100% of costs for adult sports

Commissioners serving on the Warner Stadium Committee noted this inequity was mentioned at the public Listening Session in January. It is not one of the charges of the Committee to be addressed in the report. The School District is paying for the cost of maintaining Mansfield but those charges are not readily apparent in the school district budget while the fees to use Warner are visible. It's not a question of east side schools having to pay while westside schools don't, but rather having the School District be more transparent about where those charges appear.

Registered Speaker: Dick Adam - requested lower fees

Adam stated he was lobbying for a partnership between the city and the school district. It was his belief that each school receives the same allotment for their

athletic budget and eastside school pay fees to use Warner while westside schools do not pay fees to use Mansfield. He also indicated he wasn't aware of where maintenance for Mansfield was shown in the budget. His concern was that if Parks continued to raise its fees for field use that the youth would not be able to afford to play on those beautiful fields. He suggested that the different partnerships between various entities came about because there was a need and they benefit the community. They are not all city partnerships.

Superintendent Morgan clarified the statement pertaining to a 60% subsidy for the School District. The entire cost of operating Warner Stadium and Breese Stevens Stadium is divided by the number of rentals at each facility and that result is approximately 60% higher than what the users are charged. There is a community benefit to having those facilities. Some years the costs are higher because of maintenance of items such as the replacement of bleacher seats and those costs are not passed on each year to users. The normal maintenance items that occur on a 12-month basis are included.

Webster stated the question remains as to how the school district lists the maintenance of its school fields in the budget. The costs for athletics on the eastside and westside are the same they just show up in different portions of the budget. It does appear that there is an inequity because the eastside pays a rental fee as identified in their athletic budget while the westside pays for Mansfield Stadium as part of the total maintenance costs so it appears the westside has more in its athletic budget. The question regarding this issue should be asked of the school board. Adam stated he didn't know about Parks subsidization for youth sports. He wrote the letter because he was looking at expenses that east side schools pay to use city fields. While he doesn't believe eastside schools are being treated unfairly, he looks at the fact the school district is struggling with state issues and the reality is that budget cuts will happen. He again mentioned a reduction in fees for field use and felt that would show a city/school district partnership. Commissioners mentioned that his request was for an additional subsidy and would come from either the city taxpayer pocket or the school district pocket.

Superintendent Morgan suggested the possibility of the booster clubs or other interested parties raising money to establish an endowment whereby the interest could be used to offset a portion of the fees. The Parks Foundation would be available for that purpose and the School District also has a Foundation. He believes the community would be sympathetic because everyone would like school taxes go down but they don't want quality programs to get cut. Possibly representatives from the eastside booster clubs and the Parks Foundation or the School Foundation could sit down and begin brainstorming an appeal to the community to begin long term financial planning for sports programs by explaining what all the costs are in maintaining these facilities. The Mallards General Manager indicated they would be willing to work with the eastside groups on a fundraiser and possibility the scheduling of some baseball events if they take control of the stadium.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES

- A. Request dated September 29, 2006 from John Nicholas Schweitzer to place a temporary art and science exhibit in a small part of Rennebohm Park commencing in either April or September to remain in place approximately one month.

Registered Speaker: Nick Schweitzer, Supports

A motion was made by Barker/Skidmore to approve the Request dated September 29, 2006 from John Nicholas Schweitzer to place a temporary art and science exhibit in a small part of Rennebohm Park commencing in either April or September to remain in place approximately one month.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. A suggestion was made that a picture book be created to document the art project.

- B. People for Parks Matching Fund Application by Eastmoreland Neighborhood Association to approve expenditure of \$20,000 for playground site improvements, including relocation.

A motion was made by Skidmore/MacDonald to approve the People for Parks Matching Fund Application by Eastmoreland Neighborhood Association to approve expenditure of \$20,000 for playground site improvements, including relocation. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- C. Request from Wade Evan Allen to rename a city park for Army Sergeant Mark A. Maida and establish a memorial surrounded by flowers.

Registered Speakers:

Wade Allen, support
Steve Wetley - not speaking, support
Roger Allen, support
Ray Maida, support
Grant Edler - not speaking, support
Rob Bisenius - not speaking, support
Alder Judy Compton, support

Commissioners stated none of them believe it is not a good idea to honor Sgt. Maida but had questions about maintenance of the memorial and any plantings. Further no park has been identified. Allen would be willing to work with the Parks Division on identifying a park as well as the types of plants to be included. Approximately a year ago a park was dedicated for a citywide memorial to veterans - named Veterans Memorial Park on Star Spangled Drive. It will include a Memorial Plaza and benches, plantings and a significant number of lighted flagpoles where veterans can go to memorialize the sacrifices of their comrades. The VFW informed Mr. Allen that they preferred to keep Veterans Memorial Park for all veterans and they would help him find another location.

Park Commissioners suggested different types of memorials, such as benches and trees. Mr. Allen's idea is to create a memorial to Sgt. Maida that would include a dedication. It would be a location where Sgt. Maida's family and friends could go and remember his spirit. He proposed that the memorial would be designed by a local artist that would incorporate eagles.

President Scarbrough stated that the Parks Division has worked with other individuals as they earned their Eagle Scout Badges. Planting a tree and installing a bench with a plaque might measure up to the requirements for the badge and would be there forever. Commissioners were in agreement regarding the sacrifice of armed forces personnel in Iraq and appreciate all the different emotions that go into this discussion. The concept of memorializing the contribution someone makes is very complicated and it is very difficult for the

Park Commissioners to deal with this subject quickly because of the underlying emotions for all involved. The discussion regarding different types of memorials is not intended to diminish anyone's memory but is trying to recognize what is a manageable solution that achieves the objective to honor Sgt. Maida. Commissioners agreed it was a good idea but couldn't act on the matter at this time because there are no specifics in the proposal such as identifying a park and the plantings that would be included. Superintendent Morgan added that the information provided this evening fits the criteria of the Parks Naming Policy regarding contributions to our community.

A motion was made by Skidmore/MacDonald to refer this issue back to Parks staff for further study, to work out the details with Mr. Allen and to refer it to the appropriate Committees within the Park Commission for review and recommendation of those details. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- D. Request dated January 30, 2007 from Don Heilman representing the Mad-City Ski Team to host a Clean Lakes Festival event at Warner Park on June 9, 2007 to raise funds for cleaning, education and maintenance of Dane County Lakes.

Registered Speaker: Don Heilman - available for questions, supports

A motion was made by Barker/MacDonald to approve the request dated January 30, 2007 from Don Heilman representing the Mad-City Ski Team to host a Clean Lakes Festival event at Warner Park on June 9, 2007 to raise funds for cleaning, education and maintenance of Dane County Lakes. Lakes Festival Park based upon sponsor's compliance with staff recommendations. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- E. Letter of Intent dated February 6, 2007 from Wingra School, Inc. re: Dudgeon School Building

Registered Speakers:

Don Marx, Real Estate Section of Dept of Planning & Development for City of Madison, supports
Melissa Huggins, supports

Marx of the city's Department of Planning and Development, Real Estate Section reported that the Letter of Intent provides the parameters to divide the Dudgeon School property between the school and the Parks Division. The building, land and middle portion of the block would be sold to Wingra School, Inc. and the land north and south of the school would be dedicated specifically for parkland. When the property was originally acquired from the Board of Education in 1979, it was presumed that it was parkland but the Resolution said the property was not to be dedicated permanently but to be assigned as park space from year to year subject to annual review by the city. This process will formally designate the land as parkland. The major points of the letter of intent include the creation of a Certified Survey Map to divide the parcels; Wingra will construct an addition to the building for administrative space, entrances and to install an elevator for ADA requirements; and the city agrees to designate the two portions as parkland. Wingra will improve, maintain and operate the parkland subject to the approval of the Superintendent of Parks, including mowing grass. The city will not alter the parkland designation so long as the building remains a school. There will be a Memorandum of Understanding to grant Wingra an easement that will include: "During such period, Wingra shall have the right to control access and use of the parkland during official school hours and scheduled school activities, with the

intent that the park facilities will be available to the general public during typical Madison Parks hours of operation, except when such use is incompatible with school uses.” The School will be receiving title to the land underneath the building. There are zoning restrictions on that parcel regarding future use of the building if it ceases to be used as a school.

Barker disclosed that he serves as President of the group that currently leases the building from the city and this group will cease to exist once this deal is concluded. He received the assurance of the City Attorney that there was no conflict of interest if he took part in this discussion and voted on this item. He stated anonymous donors provided the money to purchase the property to insure the building remains a school. A stipulation on the gift was the school would also remain available for neighborhood use and serve as a polling location. He then recognized the work of Don Marx in bringing this project to completion.

A motion was made by Skidmore/MacDonald to approve the terms contained in the Letter of Intent dated February 6, 2007 from Wingra School, Inc. regarding the Dudgeon School Building. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- F. ID#05385 Authorizing the City to enter into a 2 year agmt with the possibility of a one year renewal terms with Madison Metropolitan School District for the use of city park land for adult baseball/softball programs by the Madison School Community Rec.
- G. ID#05386 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 2007.

In response to questions, it was noted that the day care issue still has not been resolved. Further, the Parks Division pays a fee to MSCR annually that covers their staff time and advertising to generate the programming at WPCRC. They get free space in the Center and retain the revenue from their programming.

- H. [05308](#) Authorizing the execution of an Underground Utility Easement to Madison Gas and Electric Company across a portion of Paunack Park located at 1500 Waunona Way. 14th Ald. Dist.
Sponsors: Tim Bruer
This matter was RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed.
- I. [05467](#) Authorizing Mayor and City Clerk to enter into a three (3) year agreement on behalf of the City with Madison Area Radio Control Society (MARCS) for use of Kettle Field, City parkland.
Sponsors: Judy Compton
This matter was Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed.
- J. [05542](#) Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an Operating Agreement with Supreme Water Sports LLC, to offer canoe/kayak/windsurfing/sailing lessons, canoe/kayak/windsurf/sailboat rental service, and concessions, available to the general public, at James Madison park for the year 2007, with the option to renew for three (3) one (1) year terms.

Sponsors: Santiago Rosas and Paul E. Skidmore

This matter was RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER.
The motion passed.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Request from Vern Stenman, General Manager of the Madison Mallards to add additional seating behind home plate .

Superintendent Morgan presented an overview regarding the request by the Mallards to install seating on the current playing field between the two dugouts in the area around home plate with a small safety barrier in front of the seats. They have backed off placement directly behind home plate. They would like to install old seats from Milwaukee County Stadium. Parks staff does not support the request. Our research has found guidelines for the dimensions of a ball field that talk about a radius of 60 feet from the bases and the field does not currently meet that in most cases. Parks does not want to give up another area of space. Parks believes there is a risk to the public being that close and there is also some impact on the playability of the field.

Registered Speaker: Vern Stenman, Supports

It was noted that the 120 new seats would be used in 2007 and attempt to use the seats in the reconfigured stadium following the proposed renovation in 2008. They would be installed at ground level behind a 5-foot tall fence. The Mallards are willing to hire an engineer that does minor league baseball parks and will support the dimensions they propose. Stenman did not have any information on injury rates within those dimensions and the Mallards are willing to sign anything for liability purposes. If the Mallards sold every single new seat for every game in 2007 they would just about break even on the purchase price.

Commissioners stated they appreciated what the Mallards have done over the past several years. They also expressed reluctance in supporting a one-year fix in light of concerns about safety and liability. Superintendent Morgan spoke about stealing second base and what would happen if that fence line were to be moved forward.

A motion was made by Barker/Chewning to deny the request from Vern Stenman, General Manager of the Madison Mallards to add additional seating behind home plate. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- B. Request to use up to \$100,000 in funds from Olin Trust Fund # TN69 (earnings) for a Challenge Grant for Brittingham Boathouse Renovation.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Webster to approve the request to use up to \$100,000 in funds from the Olin Trust Fund #TN69 (earnings) for a Challenge Grant for the Brittingham Boathouse renovation.

Superintendent Morgan reported there is approximately \$350,000 worth of work remaining in the form of historic preservation, HVAC and inside restrooms for participants. With the \$100,000 challenge grant the group believes it could raise \$100,000 in private donations. The Alder for that district has indicated he would support using \$150,000 in TIF funds in the 2008 budget to complete that project. When the Park Commission approved the Mendota Rowing organization request

of \$75,000 last year to complete the wiring, they were told there would not be support in the future to invest any more trust money in that project.

A roll call vote was requested. Barker-Nay, Chewning-abstain, MacDonald-abstain, Rosas-Aye, Skidmore-Aye, Webster-abstain, Scarbrough-Aye.
MOTION FAILED

A motion was made by Skidmore/MacDonald to reconsider this item at the March meeting of the Park Commission. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. E-Mail Request from Steve Heusinger regarding Adult Tennis Fee

Registered Speakers:

Steve Heusinger, opposes fee

Elizabeth Barnhill, opposes fee

Superintendent Morgan stated the proposed fee doesn't begin to cover the \$35,000 budgeted for maintenance each year. If the vast majority of users were recreational players, the courts would not need to be maintained at their current level. USTA players' request very high quality courts. At their urging the courts are on an 8 to 10 year renovation schedule. This is the only program in Parks where the adult leagues are not contributing toward the capital improvements. Softball leagues pay, soccer leagues pay, cross country skiers pay, dog park users pay, golfers pay, and lake access fees pay for dredging and pier repairs. This is the program that senior golfers remind Parks about when their fees are increased annually. This fee has been discussed for more than four years. Parks does not want to charge youth or casual users in neighborhood courts. Parks is asking organized users to pay a portion of the costs because they are the ones driving the level of maintenance.

Commissioners noted it would be in order to try to get non-league players to contribute as well. They were not in favor of decreasing the fee but would like to get more users to pay the fee.

Heusinger suggested establishing a fund to help maintain the tennis courts. They would send out mailings to solicit funds from other groups including the USTA. They would also hold two fundraisers a year with the proceeds going into that maintenance fund. Superintendent Morgan interjected this same offer was made four years ago by the tennis community and no fund is in existence. They provided the Parks Division was a blank form to apply for a grant and no offer to help complete it. The tennis players could enter into a contract with the Madison Parks Foundation to use their contributions for the purpose stated in their agreement.

The tennis courts used by leagues are maintained at a higher level than are the smaller neighborhood courts used by recreational players.

Commissioners suggested that the fee issue could be revisited if the tennis players were successful in raising funds for tennis court maintenance. Commissioners stated the league tennis players will need to pay the fee to use the courts. The tennis fee was approved by the Park Commission last September. Tennis Leagues will be charged in 2007.

X. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Barker/Webster the meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.