



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Approved 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, March 12, 2025

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, March 12, 2025. President Miller Fienen called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Members Present: Common Council President Ald. Yanette Figueroa Cole; Moira Harrington; Catie McDonald; Chandra Miller Fienen; and Ben Williams.
Members Excused: Ald. Jael Currie and Michelle Probst.

Parks Staff Present: Eric Knepp; Lisa Laschinger; CJ Ryan; Mike Sturm; Joanne Austin; Terrence Thompson; Chad Hughes; Ann Shea; and John Weichelt.

City Staff Present: Aaron Canton, Chris Petykowski, Phil Gaebler, Dan Olivares, and Janet Schmidt, Engineering; Andy Miller, Office of Real Estate Services; and Ian Brown, Streets and Urban Forestry.

2 [87359](#)

Approval of the Minutes of the February 12, 2025 Board of Park Commissioners meeting.

Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Williams, to Approve the Minutes of the February 12, 2025 Board of Park Commissioners meeting. Motion passed by voice vote/other with Miller Fienen recusing herself as she wasn't at that meeting.

3 [87358](#)

Public Comment

There were no registrants for Public Comment

4 DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

REPORTS

5 President of the Park Commission

President Miller Fienen expressed an appreciation for Federal, State, County, and local parks and acknowledged the support of these assets.

6 Superintendent of Parks

Superintendent Eric Knepp provided the Superintendent report, highlighting a successful winter recreation season, transition to spring/summer, opening of all golf courses this week, and working on seasonal staffing for all programmatic needs. Spoke of shared ownership of park spaces and need for a clear narrative. Shelter and Athletic reservations will soon begin.

7 [87360](#) March 2025 Superintendent's Report

Public Information Officer Ann Shea gave the Public Information Office report and was available to answer questions.

Motion made by Harrington, seconded by McDonald, to Accept the Report.
Motion passed by voice vote/other.

8 [87380](#) Report of the February 11, 2025 Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee and February 19, 2025 Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee.

Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Harrington, to Accept the Minutes.
Motion passed by voice vote/other.

9 NEW BUSINESS

Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Harrington, to Approve by Consent Agenda No. 10, Legislative File No. 87270; No. 11, Legislative File No. 87347; No. 12, Legislative File No. 87336; No. 15, Legislative File No. 87370; No. 16, Legislative File No. 87253; No. 18, Legislative File No. 87269; and No. 26, Legislative File No. 87332. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

10* [87270](#) Board of Park Commissioners Proclaiming April 27, 2025 as World Migratory Bird Day in the City of Madison

Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Harrington, to Approve. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

11* [87347](#) Commemorating the 55th Anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, 2025, to proclaim April 26, 2025, as Earth Day Challenge Day, and to endorse and encourage resident participation in the clean-up events at City of Madison Parks.

Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Harrington, to Approve. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

12* [87336](#) Board of Park Commissioners Proclaiming Commitment to Supporting Pollinator Health

Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Harrington, to Approve. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

- 13 [87379](#) Informational Presentation on the John Nolen Drive Engineering Project along the causeway.
- Aaron Canton from City Engineering presented overview of the project and was available to answer questions.**
- City Forester Ian Brown provided overview of tree health concerns and discussed highlights of the approach to ensure successful tree and canopy establishment.**
- Harrington noted that this did not go to the Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee.**
- 14 [87378](#) Request for Approval of the proposed improvements associated with the John Nolen Drive Engineering Project within Law Park and Olin Park. (District 4, District 13)
- Parks Landscape Architect Mike Sturm presented the proposed improvements.**
- Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Figueroa Cole, to Approve the Request. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**
- 15* [87370](#) Request by Madison Parks Foundation to extend Madison Park hours for Picnic in the Park at Westmorland Park on Saturday, May 17, 2025. Request to extend hours until 11:00 PM to include an additional hour of activities, amplification and beer/wine service to attendees. (District 11)
- Executive Director Stephanie Franklin from Madison Parks Foundation was available to answer questions.**
- Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Harrington, to Approve. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**
- 16* [87253](#) Informational Report by Big Top Events Regarding the 2025 Fan Access Plan, Neighborhood Impact Plan, and Responsible Alcohol Consumption Action Plan at Breese Stevens Field. (District 6)
- Tristan Straub of Big Top Events dba Breese Stevens Field was available to answer questions.**
- Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Harrington, to Accept the Reports. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**
- 17 [87326](#) Approving request from Big Top Events for a fireworks display on June 28, 2025 at Breese Stevens field. (District 6)
- Tristan Straub and Conor Caloia of Big Top Events dba Breese Stevens Field were available to answer questions.**
- Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Harrington, to Approve the Request. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**

- 18* [87269](#) Authorizing the City's execution of a 5-year lease agreement with Rooted WI, Inc, with one 5-year renewal option, related to 17 community gardens located on City-owned land across the city (District 4, District 6, District 10, District 11, District 12, District 13, District 14, District 15, District 16, District 20).
- Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Harrington, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**
- 19 [87448](#) Approving the Request from City Engineering to Complete Storm Sewer Repairs at Nakoma Park
- Janet Schmidt from Engineering provided an overview and was available to answer questions. Dan Olivares from Engineering was also available.**
- Motion made by Harrington, seconded by Williams, to Approve the Request. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**
- 20 [87503](#) Informational Presentation from City Engineering Regarding Potential Impact of Wingra Proper Watershed Study Proposed Solutions on Parks Owned Land. (Citywide)
- Phil Gaebler from Engineering provided presentation of watershed study and was available to answer questions.**
- 21 [87504](#) Informational Presentation from City Engineering Regarding Potential Impact of Near West and John Nolen Drive Watershed Study Proposed Solutions on Park Owned Land (Citywide)
- Phil Gaeber from Engineering provided presentation of watershed study and was available to answer questions.**
- 22 [87444](#) Authorizing the City's sale of 776 Square Feet from Spring Harbor Beach Park located at 1918 Norman Way to the adjacent neighbor at 5400 Lake Mendota Drive (District 19)
- Assistant Superintendent Lisa Laschinger provided an overview of the request and answered questions.**
- Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Figueroa Cole, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**
- 23 [87319](#) Creating Subdivision 8.35(3)(e) of the Madison General Ordinances to allow the change in legal status of certain lands at Spring Harbor Beach Park. (District 19)
- Laschinger provided an overview of the Ordinance and answered questions.**
- Motion made by Harrington, seconded by Figueroa Cole, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**

- 24 [87493](#) Authorizing the City to execute an agreement with Electrical Workers Local 159 Labor Management Cooperative Committee Fund Trust for permission to use portions of Olin Park for its Holiday Fantasy in Lights Event, including installing holiday lighting and permanent infrastructure to support the lighting for the years of 2025-2030. (District 14)
- Registered speaker Mark Shahan spoke in opposition.
Registered speaker Peter Taglia spoke neither in support nor opposition.
- Community Services Manager Terrence Thompson provided an overview of the agreement.
- Motion made by Harrington, seconded by McDonald, to RETURN TO LEAD WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.
Motion passed by voice vote/other.
- Common Council President Ald. Figueroa Cole left at 8:29 PM.
- Members Present: 4 - Moira Harrington; Catie McDonald; Chandra Miller Fienen; and Ben Williams.
Members Excused: 3 - Ald. Jael Currie; Ald. Figueroa Cole; and Michelle Probst.
- 25 [87491](#) Authorizing the Mayor and the City Clerk to enter into a contract with Musonics L.L.C., d/b/a/ Cafe CODA for exclusive alcohol beverage services at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center (WPCRC) from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026, with the possibility of two successive two-year renewal terms. (District 12)
- Laschinger provided an overview and was available to answer questions.
- Motion made by Harrington, seconded by Williams, to RETURN TO LEAD WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.
Motion passed by voice vote/other.
- 26* [87332](#) Authorizing the Parks Division to submit, and if awarded, accept grant of up to \$500,000 from the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for park improvements and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into a contract with State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to accept grant award. (District 18)
- Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Harrington, to RETURN TO LEAD WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.
Motion passed by voice vote/other.
- 27 [87012](#) Land Management Plan Revision
- Operations Manager Chad Hughes provided an overview of the requested updates to the Land Management Plan and was available to answer questions.
- Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Williams, to Approve. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

- 28 [87374](#) Review of "Friends of Madison Parks: Formation, Rules, and Support Guidelines"
- Parks Volunteer Coordinator John Weichelt provided an overview and was available to answer questions.
- 29 [87457](#) Informational Presentation from Staff Regarding Decorative Signage at Tenney Park Recognizing Ed Jepsen Way
- Registered speaker Kristin Groth was in support and available to answer questions.
- Registered speaker Becky Steinhoff was in support and available to answer questions.
- Laschinger provided an overview of the request and asked for feedback from the Commissioners.
- 30 **ADJOURNMENT**
- Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Williams, to Adjourn at 8:52 PM.
- Motion passed by voice vote/other.