



City of Madison
Meeting Minutes - Final
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

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

*Ald. Santiago Rosas, Ald. Paul E. Skidmore, William Barker, Randall L. Glysch,
Betty Chewning, Emanuel Scarbrough, Betty N. MacDonald*

Wednesday, September 14, 2005

6:30 PM

1625 Northport Dr. (WPCRC)

CALL TO ORDER

Present: Ald. Santiago Rosas, William Barker, Randall L. Glysch and Betty N. MacDonald

Absent: Ald. Paul E. Skidmore and Emanuel Scarbrough

Excused: Betty Chewning

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Absent: Ald. Paul E. Skidmore and Emanuel Scarbrough

Excused: Betty Chewning

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

I. ROLL CALL

President Barker called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Present: Ald. Santiago Rosas, Ald. Paul E. Skidmore, William Barker, Randall L. Glysch, Emanuel Scarbrough and Betty N. MacDonald

Excused: Betty Chewning

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Present: Ald. Santiago Rosas, Ald. Paul E. Skidmore, William Barker, Randall L. Glysch, Emanuel Scarbrough and Betty N. MacDonald

Excused: Betty Chewning

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by MacDonald/Rosas to approve the Minutes of the July 13, 2005 regular meeting of the Park Commission. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

A motion was made by Rosas/Glysch to approve the Minutes of the August 10, 2005 regular meeting of the Park Commission. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

Present: Ald. Santiago Rosas, Ald. Paul E. Skidmore, William Barker, Randall L. Glysch, Emanuel Scarbrough and Betty N. MacDonald

Excused: Betty Chewning

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee

A motion was made by MacDonald/Glysch to accept the Minutes of the April 4 and 18, 2005 meetings of the Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee. MOTION CARRIED unanimously. A motion was made by Glysch/MacDonald to approve the Action Report from the August 29, 2005 meeting of the Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee and attached proposed City Parks Fees for 2006. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

B. Olbrich Botanical Society minutes of July 19, 2005 Meeting

A motion was made by Glysch/Rosas to accept the Minutes of the July 19, 2005 meeting of the Olbrich Botanical Society. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

C. Warner Park Community Recreation Center Minutes of June 15, 2005 and July 20, 2005

A motion was made by MacDonald/Glysch to accept the Minutes of the June 15, 2005 and July 20, 2005 meetings of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Committee. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

V. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARK COMMISSION

President Barker commented on the shelter at Hoyt Park where the August Parks Tour stopped. The CCC built the shelter where supper was served. He noted that when the shelter was under construction the program ended because the CCC ran out of money and the workers came back as volunteers to finish the building. He felt that commitment fit the spirit and legacy of parks in Madison. He also acknowledged that the President of the Parks Foundation and the President of the Friends of Hoyt Park were in attendance that evening and emphasized the coalition of support that sustains our city parks in times of budgetary trauma. President Barker then expressed his appreciation and admiration for the dedicated service of staff and volunteers.

It was noted there are plaques recognizing the work of the CCC in some of the parks but there is no master list of the WPA projects.

President Barker then recognized the service of long time employee and retiring Director of Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Nancy Ragland. She has worked for the Parks Division for more than 30 years and has taken the Gardens to national prominence. On behalf of the Park Commission he expressed appreciation for her service.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS

A. Written Report of Supervisor's Activities

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

Superintendent Morgan reported that, as evidenced by the written report, the seasonal college students are leaving Parks employment. They provide a significant amount of work throughout the summer. Maintenance staff is beginning to gear up for leaf cleanup and preparing parks for winter sports. Due to the dry weather this summer, maintenance staff were able to work on projects that had been on the back burner.

B. Beach Numbers for July and August

He noted that the beach numbers for July and August show only a portion of the patrons in the water since counts are taken only when lifeguards are present. Due to the pending budget cut of 3% he is proposing closing the low attendance beaches.

C. Budget Update

Because of the impact of the levy limits by the state, Parks stopped filling positions in the hope of not having to lay people off. Currently there are 23 vacancies in the Parks Division that will cover the 3% cut for the proposed 2006 budget as well as the escalating utility charges. The budget adjustment is roughly ¾ million dollars. While we were able to produce a good budget package in conformance with the 3% cut, Parks can't fulfill its mission with all of those vacancies. Superintendent Morgan spoke with the Mayor explaining that Parks wants to focus on its core responsibilities in the summer months. An item that costs an enormous amount of money is the smaller neighborhood ice-skating rinks, which he is proposing be closed due to the elimination of our 3rd shift. Those are the people who would go out and flood the ice rinks during the night. He is also proposing closing two beaches with very low attendance. Successes include the hiring of six arborists. Those vacancies contributed to a backlog that many weeks was 500+ work orders from citizen calls. Parks is also shifting some of the remaining vacancies to year round maintenance workers. Olbrich Botanical Gardens and the State Street Mall Concourse will not have any cuts made. Maintenance of neighborhood parks will remain intact and the ranger program will remain. No restrooms will be closed and maintenance will be done to maintain safety. There will be approximately a 10% reduction in mowing system wide, which translates into about 300 acres. There may be amendments to the Mayor's budget that allows some of the cuts to be restored but the city is growing and public safety, police and fire, take precedence. The pool will open and the revenue derived there should cover that operation. The cross-country ski program will only operate at Elver Park where there is also ice skating and the sledding hill. Cross Country skiing will not operate at Odana Golf Course Clubhouse this coming winter. The MSCR lessons that had been conducted at Odana will move to Elver. Madison Nordic Ski Club will work with these changes.

Superintendent Morgan spoke of the detailed business plan for the pool that outlines all of the expenses and projected revenue. The Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee worked very hard to balance the revenue and expenses. The budget for the pool is a separate line item and does not include any tax subsidy for the pool operation. He noted that the plan is good but the income is largely weather related. The plan estimates attendance at 55,000 patrons. There will be a scholarship program in place to supplement lower income patrons to allow them to take lessons and use the pool.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES

- A. [01822](#) To authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign and execute an agreement with Wingra Canoe and Sailing Center, Inc. to operate a boat livery service utilizing certain lands and buildings at Wingra Park for a two year period, commencing April 1, 2006 and ending October 31, 2007.
- A motion was made by Ald. Skidmore, seconded by Ald. Rosas, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULES 2.04, 2.05, 2.24, & 2.25 - REPORT OF OFFICER. It was noted that the leased area includes all the dock space as well as the area between the dock and building, the area behind the building to the sidewalk entryway. The motion passed by acclamation.**
- B. [01865](#) Repealing Sections 8.18, 8.186, 8.187, 8.189 and recreating them as Section 8.18 of the Madison General Ordinances to unify parking regulations for City parks under one section number and add parking regulations for Henry Vilas Park, and amending Section 1.08(3)(a) of the Madison General Ordinances to update references for violations of Sections 8.18, 8.186, 8.187 and 8.189 in the bail deposit schedule.
- A motion was made by Ald. Rosas, seconded by Ald. Skidmore, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER Superintendent Morgan reported there is a chance the Ranger program will be increased in next year's budget. Monitoring parking violations at parks and boat launches comprises approximately 20% of their duties. The motion passed by acclamation.**
- C. Rhythm & Booms Planning Team Minutes of Wrap Up Meeting on August 16, 2005
- A motion was made by Skidmore/Rosas to accept the Rhythm & Booms Planning Team Minutes of Wrap Up Meeting on August 16, 2005. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**
- D. Letter from Jacqueline Madl regarding refund of reservation fee.
- A motion was made by Skidmore/Rosas to deny the request from Jacqueline Madl for a refund of her reservation fee. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. [00424](#) SUBSTITUTE - To establish and execute a fair and participatory process for deciding whether or not and/or how to restrict the flow of motorized vehicular traffic on Edgewood Drive, a remnant of the Park and Pleasure Drive system. The process includes public information, citizen participation, attorney analysis, traffic engineering analysis, consultation with the Edgewood schools and the other abutting property owner and, finally, consideration by the Common Council of any restrictions recommended by the Board of Park Commissioners.

Refer to the BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS Superintendent Morgan described the history of this Resolution and the process that was established more than a year ago to resolve the issue of motorized vehicular traffic on Edgewood Drive. A plan was developed by the Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee of the Park Commission, and approved by both the Park Commission and the Common Council. Following the first public listening session in 2004, a motion was approved to restrict motorized traffic to every other Sunday afternoon. At the May 25, 2005 special meeting of the Park Commission, a motion was approved to amend the 2004 motion to restrict motorized traffic to every Sunday afternoon. At the July 13, 2005 Park Commission meeting, a motion was made to refer the issue back to Parks staff to work with Edgewood to reach agreement on restricting automobile access along the Drive. Additionally, Parks, Engineering and Traffic Engineering were to develop the criteria for implementation, which brings us to this latest plan.

Superintendent Morgan presented a plan that had been approved by Parks staff, Engineering and Traffic Engineering that would create a cul de sac on Woodward Street that would eliminate the cut through traffic from Edgewood Drive. He reported that this would restrict motorized vehicular traffic on Edgewood Drive since it would not be able to enter Woodward Street. This plan would also provide access to all of the Edgewood Campus buildings. The Drive would be posted as No Outlet to Street, and no gates would need to be placed along the Drive and there would be no issues with ADA. If people drove Edgewood Drive they would need to come back out again.

He suggested that if the Park Commission was to approve this latest proposal, it would first need to rescind its action from the May 25, 2005 Park Commission meeting wherein a Motion to restrict automobile traffic on the Park and Pleasure Drive to Sunday afternoons with the exception of service vehicles was approved. The Board of Public Works stated the current plan with the cul de sac is a non-park issue since nothing will be done to Edgewood Drive itself. Superintendent Morgan noted this is one of the most complicated pieces of legislation he has encountered because of all the check back points in the process.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Glysch to accept the process detailing the resolution of whether or not and how to restrict the flow or motorized vehicular traffic on Edgewood Drive. MOTION CARRIED with Rosas abstaining.

Registered Speakers:

NAME	Latest Proposal	SUPPORT	/	OPPOSE
Shawn Schey	- Friends of Park & Pleasure Drive	in support		
Letter from Kay Gabriel and Fiona McTavish		in support		
Letter from Peter Tan read by President Barker		in support		
Katharine Odell	- Friends of Park & Pleasure Drive	in support		

A motion was made by MacDonald/Skidmore to rescind the earlier decision of the Park Commission to restrict motorized traffic to limited hours every Sunday afternoon. Superintendent Morgan reported that the Alder approves of the new plan. City Engineer Larry Nelson made a presentation to Edgewood and this plan addressed their concerns regarding access to all of their buildings as well as providing emergency access for fire and police. President Barker spoke with Edgewood and reported they favor this latest proposal. MacDonald stated

Maggie Balistreri Clarke as the liaison for Edgewood Inc. also supports the proposal.

The previous plan required the placement of two gates to limit access; this plan won't need those gates. If all traffic was removed it could be a detriment to walkers who would feel isolated walking back there. This latest proposal allows elderly persons to use the Drive to enjoy the trees and drive back out without going through the neighborhood. This proposal would also prevent challenges of the easement by either the Kubleys or Edgewood. Edgewood Drive to Vilas Park has become a shortcut to get to St. Mary's and locations along Park Street as well as by students who are looking for parking spaces. This proposal maintains access for everyone but does cut out the commuter traffic. It was noted this is the first proposal that is satisfactory to the neighborhood, the City Attorney and Edgewood. The City will repave the narrow roadway and begin repairs to the stone masonry on the bridges and plan for the repair of fence lines to put the character back into the Drive.

President Barker called the question on the motion made by MacDonald/Skidmore to rescind the earlier decision of the Park Commission to restrict motorized traffic to limited hours every Sunday afternoon. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

A motion was made by Scarbrough/MacDonald to endorse the proposal developed by Engineering and Traffic Engineering to create a cul de sac on Woodrow Street. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

B. [00963](#)

The Parks Division supports the use of Odana School Park for the construction and operation of a new Westside Senior Center in Odana School Park.

Registered Speakers:

NAME	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Paul Borowsky	in support	
Scott Sussman, President of Midvale Heights N.A.	in support	
Timothy Morgan	in support	
Gary Stebnitz	in support	
Diane Fronck	in support	
Marian R. Todd	in support	
Colin Godding	in support	

Speakers indicated, that if the building were built in Odana School Park, it would be a community center similar to Warner Park Community Rec Center's facility. Other groups could use the space, especially in the evenings and provide an intergenerational mix of users. The Senior Coalition would handle the administration. It was hoped there would be a long-term partnership between the Senior Center, neighborhood association and Parks. Funding in part would depend on the type of legal agreement entered into with the City. Neighbors indicated they were in support of the building as a community center.

Disappointment was expressed about the size of the parking lot and Commissioners asked that the number of parking spaces be reconsidered. Suggestions were also made about adding islands to break up the concrete and whether a different surface for parking could be used. There was also discussion about the anticipated growth of seniors in that area and whether the proposal would be large enough to accommodate that growth. Superintendent Morgan interjected that the neighborhood is right that there could be new life brought into this park if the Park Commission is comfortable with the concept of placing the building on the sloped portion of the park. This park is currently designed for multi-use athletic fields such as soccer, softball and basketball. The shift is toward cutting the soccer fields down to allow for more youth soccer players. Soccer fields are in short supply to support the largest group of users throughout the entire city. If there is public support for this use, this plan preserves green space that would be acceptable. However, more thought should be given to the number of parking spaces. The building would create additional activity in the park and will change the character of the park. It would encourage parents to come to the park with younger children to use the playground. This park is a great neighborhood buffer for the backside of the shopping center. The neighborhood has additional green space at Odana Golf Course and Westmorland Park.

Superintendent Morgan stated that when the site was considered for a swimming pool site, they were surprised with the numbers of older residents as well as children in the area. Senior activities are programmed for ages 55+. That programming changes over time, but the goal is to provide appropriate services such as lunch programs, exercise, health clinics, etc. Parks has a philosophical duty to serve all ages and populations. Madison doesn't have senior activities in parks, other than golf. Senior numbers are growing and they will be around much longer and they are all more active. Good quality programming space is desirable. President Barker reminded the Commissioners they were not micromanaging the size of a potential building but endorsing a partnership between the Senior Coalition and neighborhood.

Commissioners then expressed their sentiments. Members noted the older population is growing and growing and they may need or desire to expand again in the future. Giving up green space is a huge concern because once it's gone, it's gone forever; however, building into the side of hill would utilize land that is otherwise not usable for park purposes. The Commissioners view themselves as stewards of the parks. Concern was mentioned again and again about the size of the proposed parking area but feel that will be resolved. Members were happy the building was being thought of as more of a community center than just a senior center. Parks tends to cater to youth and the 20 through 50-year old individuals. Our society is getting older and this building would allow for a blending of youth and age, for the benefit of both. Thought will need to be given to the type of partnership Parks would maintain with the Senior Coalition that does not take away parks recreational uses. The neighborhood association believes this building will invigorate the park would a negative impact on green space. One member expressed his serious concerns because he feels some parks are over utilized for youth soccer and there is a conflict for space for soccer fields. He also didn't feel the proposal contained enough space for the senior center nor could he support the parking plan. He closed with a reference to a similar proposal from a sailing club that was turned down by the Park Commission a few years ago. Clarification was then made that the previous proposal was for a Yacht Clubhouse for their club members with a possible room that could be used by the community, it was not a community or senior center.

A motion was made by Skidmore/MacDonald to support the use of Odana School Park for the construction and operation of a new Westside Community/Senior Center in Odana School Park. **MOTION CARRIED** with Rosas voting No.

- C. [01565](#) Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an agreement with MG&E to construct, maintain, and manage an active stormwater infiltration system in the Odana Hills Golf Course and Park. (20th Ald Dist)

A motion was made by Ald. Skidmore, seconded by Scarbrough, to
RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER Registered

Speakers:

NAME	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Don Peterson - MG&E (Lobbyist)		in support
Steve Gaffield (Lobbyist for MG&E)		in support
Robert Montgomery (Lobbyist for MG&E)	in support	
Robert Stoffs (Lobbyist for MG&E)	in support	
Scott Sussman - Midvale Heights N.A.		opposed

It was stated that the Odana recharge is part of an overall solution to help mitigate the water that will be removed from Lake Mendota in periods of low flow when there has not been sufficient rain to maintain the lake level. Water would then be pumped from the Odana pond to replenish the amount of water taken out for the Co-Gen facility. The water will be taken out at one location and put back at another location in the same aquifer. A power point demonstration provided pictures showing the pumping location and depths.

MG&E has hosted neighborhood meetings in March and June to provide information to the residents as well as separate individuals meetings with residents to address their concerns. The DNR will be holding a hearing on the water use in September. Commissioners were informed that neighbors who had approached them on the August tour were informed this item would be on the September agenda.

The motion passed by acclamation.

D. Hillington Green Ice Rink

Widstrand stated Parks has been working with neighborhood representatives. A plumber is working on designs to provide water for the rink. The neighborhood hopes to present a plan that will have already received Parks staff approval to the Park Commissioners at their September meeting.

Registered Speakers:

NAME	SUPPORT / OPPOSE
Tim, Anne & Mick	in support

Following the presentation, MacDonald stated the neighborhood representatives should be commended for their tenacity in pursuing this project. Superintendent Morgan stated that the Parks Division maintains a list of neighborhoods that can be used as posters for parks projects and that this has been added to that list. A motion was made by Skidmore/Scarbrough to approve the neighborhood installation for and maintenance of an ice rink at Hillington Green. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

E. Revision to Cemetery rules regarding allowable decorations.

Superintendent Morgan reported that the proposal being presented this evening is relatively standard among cemeteries regarding decorations. When the cemetery was first founded more than a hundred years ago, there was a separate Cemetery Commission that set the policies and governed the cemetery. That Commission was later disbanded and the operation became part of the purview of the Park Commission.

A motion was made by Glysich/MacDonald to approve the revisions to the Cemetery Rules regarding allowable decorations. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Diseased and Dead Elms and Oaks on Private Property, 2004 Requiring Condemnation

A motion was made by Glysich/Skidmore to recommend that at the October 19, 2005 meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners, a public hearing be held beginning at 7:00 p.m. to declare diseased and dead elms and oaks a public nuisance according to City of Madison General Ordinance 23.40 (4)(B). **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

B. Westmorland Park Drainage Improvements and Tornado Cleanup

A motion was made by Skidmore/Rosas to refer the Westmorland Park Drainage Improvements and tornado cleanup to a future Park Commission meeting. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

Prior to adjournment, Commissioner Scarbrough informed the Park Commission that he had contacted Superintendent Morgan about a situation occurring in Penn Park and within a day the lights were turned on in the park to light it at night. He expressed his thanks for the prompt help.

X. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Rosas/Skidmore the meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

ADDENDUM

VII. CORRESPONDENCE, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, Continued

E. [01927](#) Authorizing the Parks Department to enter into a short term Use Agreement with Covance to allow Covance to park 350 employee vehicles at Warner Park for a fee of \$12 per stall per month.

A motion was made by Aid. Skidmore, seconded by Aid. Rosas, to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO PLACE ON FILE - REPORT OF OFFICER** A motion was made by Skidmore/Rosas to place on file the Resolution ID#01927 authorizing the Parks Department to enter into a short term Use Agreement with Covance to allow Covance to park 350 employee vehicles at Warner Park for a fee of \$12 per stall per month. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

The motion passed by acclamation.