



**City of Madison**  
**Meeting Minutes - Draft**  
**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**

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

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Wednesday, September 13, 2006

6:30 PM

1625 Northport Dr. (WPCRC)

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**Regular Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Madison Board of Park Commissioners was held on Wednesday, September 13, 2006 at Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Drive. President Barker called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed. Members of the audience were reminded to complete Registration Forms and turn them in to the Secretary prior to that item being announced.

I. ROLL CALL

**Present:** Paul E. Skidmore, William Barker, Stephen A. Webster, Betty Chewning, Emanuel Scarbrough and Betty N. MacDonald

**Excused:** Santiago Rosas

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 12, 2006

A motion was made by Skidmore/Webster to approve the Minutes of the July 12, 2006 regular meeting of the Park Commission: **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee Minutes of May 1, 2006

A motion was made by MacDonald/Skidmore to accept the Minutes of the May 1, 2006 meeting of the Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously

1. Action Report from August 28, 2006 meeting

A motion was made by Skidmore/Webster to approve the Action Report from the August 28, 2006 meeting of the Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee and all fees attached to that report. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

The Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee deferred action on the Lake Access Fees. Superintendent Morgan explained that a compromise has been reached with Dane County Parks that will keep the lake access program a joint

collaboration with the city to ensure that people will not need to purchase two permits. It will also make the city's enforcement easier by not having to check two permits. The Parks Division had originally proposed a significant change this year with a modest increase for city residents and a larger increase for non-residents because of the large number of permits purchased from people outside the city and outside the county. This proposal was set above the state caps and could have negated any funding from the DNR for waterway grants. Dane County did not want to go along with the higher non-resident fee because they are receiving DNR funding at one ramp that is part of a multi-year program and did not want to jeopardize those funds. Because the city sites have greater impact from boaters and due to the crowded boat ramps, the city decided to separate from Dane County in order to provide better access for city residents. Dane County has since started looking at their fees again in order to generate additional revenue and they are now in sync with the city proposal. Dane County Parks has not approved the increases but it is anticipated they will do so. Scarbrough noted that during the Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee meeting a suggestion was made to raise the non-resident fee even higher. A suggestion was also made that an out of state category might be added but it was noted that not many people from outside Wisconsin purchase lake access permits here. A motion was made by Skidmore/Webster to approve the Lake Access fees compromise as set forth by Superintendent Morgan. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

B. Golf Committee Minutes of April 25, 2006 Meeting

A motion was made by Webster/Skidmore to accept the Minutes of the April 25, 2006 meeting of the Golf Committee. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.** Additional information on two items in the Minutes was provided. Marketing the municipal golf courses would provide the general public with a better understanding of what kind of facilities the city has to offer. The area has an abundance of golf courses and two are presently for sale and may be converted to housing. There is great competition for golfers and the highest demographic for growth is in the seniors age group. This trend is not unique to Madison but is happening nationwide. The golf program had some reserves they have been able to fall back on, but those funds are being depleted. Glenway and Monona are 9-hole courses that are filled with retirees. Yahara is a 36-hole course that really only utilizes 18 holes. Odana at one time was the busiest golf course in this part of the state but is not that busy any more.

An ADA golf cart has been purchased and will be available to be reserved and moved to whichever course is in need of it. If there is enough interest, a second cart could be purchased.

1. Appreciation Proclamation

At this time Vice President Emanuel Scarbrough read a Proclamation in recognition of the volunteer work performed by Joni Dye to bring the Junior Golf Program to disadvantaged youth in Madison. The Board applauded Ms. Dye's spirit of volunteerism that has supported the promotion of golf to area disadvantaged youth. Ms. Dye then thanked the Park Commissioners for their recognition and acknowledged it would not have been possible without the cooperation of Parks Superintendent Jim Morgan, Golf Supervisor Ray Shane and the city golf pros that have donated their time and equipment for this program. A motion was made by Webster/Scarbrough to approve the wording of the Appreciation Proclamation to Joni Dye. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

C. Olbrich Botanical Society Minutes of June 20 and July 18, 2006 Meetings

**A motion was made by Scarbrough/MacDonald to accept the Minutes of the June 20 and July 18, 2006 meetings of the Olbrich Botanical Society. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

V. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARK COMMISSION

A. Update on Edgewood Park and Pleasure Drive Closure

**President Barker reported that the Edgewood Drive closure work is occurring and is about one third of the way toward installation of the hammerhead and bike path . Residents who live closest to the closed portion of the Drive report that there are lots of families with strollers along the Drive that haven't been seen in previous years. He commented that the degree of cooperation from neighbors is impressive.**

B. Update on Habitat Stewardship Committee Membership

**President Barker announced that he is appointing Ken Raffa, a Professor of Entomology at the UW and Jim Lorman, Edgewood College to the Habitat Stewardship Committee. Their names will be submitted to the Mayor for approval by the Common Council.**

C. Update on Garver Building RFP Committee

**President Barker announced that the Common Council has adopted the Resolution that established this committee and has approved the members of the Garver Building RFP Committee. The members are: Mark McFadden, Lou Host-Jablonski, Dennis Birke, Aids. Judy Olson and Paul Skidmore, and William Barker. The group will be working to put together an RFP for reuse of the Garver building.**

D. Congratulations on the Annual Report and Goodman Pool Achievements,

**He concluded by recognizing the Parks Division for the great job of highlighting its successes in their Annual Report, Olbrich Gardens has been named a green destination and also the success of the first year of operation of the Goodman Pool. It is astonishing what the Parks Division can attain through philanthropy, volunteers and an excellent staff. Superintendent Morgan interjected that Laura Whitmore, Parks Community Relations Coordinator, is responsible for the creation of the annual report and concurred she did an excellent job while also putting out all the public information on the swimming pool.**

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS

A. Written Report of Supervisor's Activities

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

**B. Informational Items**

**Beach Numbers**

**Superintendent Morgan indicated that it has not been a great year for beach**

attendance even though the water quality was better, the numbers were still down . Two beaches in particular have very low attendance, Bernies and Esther Beaches. As requested by the Mayor, the 2007 budget contains reductions and he asked the Council to remove these two beaches from the list of life guarded beaches. Both because they are just a short distance to another location for swimmers and because it would be a \$6,000+ cost savings. A survey was conducted that found people view the beaches and lifeguards as important but also found that they haven't personally used the beaches in years. It was noted that the primary reason for not going to the beaches is not the water quality but a change in lifestyles. In years past, mothers brought their children to the beach, now mothers are working and kids are in day care or day camps and those institutions prefer going to pools.

#### Goodman Pool

The Goodman pool had a great first year. There are many ways to measure its successful operation. The attendance had been projected at 55,000 and there were more than 75,000 attendees. The weather for the most part was perfect but there were higher than expected costs due to extended hours. Not as many family passes were sold but there were lots of day passes sold. An initial analysis shows people didn't have the money to purchase an annual pass at the beginning of summer but could come up with the daily admission. He reported on yesterday's wonderful press conference that announced the Goodman Brothers had put together an endowment to create \$50,000 in annual scholarships to ensure that those in need would always have access to the pool. The Parks Foundation and the Shelley Glover Foundation have also raised funds for scholarships. This year more than \$16,000 in scholarships was distributed from those donations, not City of Madison tax money, but didn't cover all requests for help.

#### DED Elms/Oaks on Private Property

Superintendent Morgan reported that there will be no need for a public hearing on the DED Elms and Oaks on private property this year. In large part because there were no staff available to do a survey street by street and there were no complaints about trees on private property suspected of Dutch elm or oak wilt diseases. In the past it has taken two people four weeks to conduct these surveys and with the number of storms Forestry has responded to this summer there was no time to conduct the survey. Additionally, the municipalities surrounding Madison do not conduct surveys. This program was originally started in an attempt to stem the onslaught of Dutch elm disease and in the past year was changed to a complaint driven system rather than a discovery driven system.

## VII. CORRESPONDENCE, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES

- A. [04202](#) Accepting an Offer to Purchase from Will South Side LLC for the purchase of a surplus City-owned parcel of land within Doncaster Park located at 4335 Doncaster Drive. 10th Ald. Dist.

This matter was Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed.

Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES

- B. [04213](#) Authorizing the acceptance of an Offer to Sell from Occasional Partners, LLC, for a two-unit residential income property located at 17-19 S. Orchard Street, and amending the 2006 Parks Division Capital Budget to add funding for Ed Klief Park expansion. 13th Ald. Dist.

**A motion was made by Skidmore, seconded by Scarbrough, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed by acclamation.**

**Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES**

- C. [04236](#) Authorizing the execution of a Utility Easement to Madison Gas and Electric Company across a City-owned property located at 207 West Olin Avenue. 13th Ald. Dist.

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

**RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER**

- D. Request from Dr. John Steinberg, President of Pyrotechnics Guild International to host the 2010 International Convention and Trade Show at Quann Park and Willow Island on Friday August 6, 2010 through Friday, August 13, 2010.

**Registered Speakers:**

**Tanya Johnson - GMCVB in support  
Barbara Gilligan, in opposition**

**It was noted the Alder has concerns about noise levels in the evenings. Concerns of toxic waste and debris, pollution and soot causing respiratory problems and length of time the park would be out of use were also mentioned. A suggestion was made to move the fireworks to another location. Commissioners also stated the applicant or Greater Madison Convention and Visitors Bureau will need to meet with staff, the fire department and the neighborhood to provide details of the event and hear concerns that should be addressed.**

**A motion was made by Webster/Skidmore to refer this request to staff to determine the recommendations necessary to approve the request from Dr. John Steinberg, President of Pyrotechnics Guild International to host the 2010 International Convention and Trade Show at Quann Park and Willow Island on Friday August 6, 2010 through Friday, August 13, 2010 which will include Alder and neighborhood meetings. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Warner Park Community Recreation Center Revised Committee Structure

**A brief synopsis was given of the action taken in July by the Park Commission. President Barker made the motion to revise the option that had been submitted by the Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Committee by removing the voting rights of the three institutional representatives and adding a representative from one of the Northside community centers. That motion was**

made after careful thought because it appeared the institutional representatives had difficulty setting their institutional interest aside to focus on the greater good of the entire facility. There were also quorum issues. Skidmore reported he spoke with the City Attorney and it is his understanding that the Common Council has authority over the structure/members of the committee. A Resolution adopted by the Common Council originally established the Advisory Committee as a subcommittee of the Park Commission and also set forth its membership. Therefore the Common Council needs to approve any action of the Park Commission relative to membership on the Advisory Committee.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Scarborough to reconsider the following action of the Park Commission at its July 12, 2006 meeting: "A motion was made by Barker/Skidmore that the Warner Park Community Recreation Center Citizens Advisory Committee consist of the Northside Planning Council (NPC), Madison-School Community Recreation (MSCR), North-Eastside Senior Coalition (NESCO) as ex officio members, and the voting members consist of three citizen members, one member from one of the four Northside neighborhood centers, one youth member, two alders and one Park Commission member. Prior to voting, the citizen and institutional members were clarified."

Members at that July meeting supported the change for honorable reasons and felt it was in the best interests of the Advisory Committee to attempt to restructure it so it was more workable and that intention is still supported. The Common Council by ordinance has the final jurisdiction on changing the make-up of the committee, however the Park Commission dictates policy. Hopefully all of this discussion will serve as a wake-up call to the Advisory Committee.

With regard to the quorum issues, if a member misses three consecutive meetings, that name is forwarded to the Mayor's office. The Chair of the committee is to contact that member to inquire as to any extenuating circumstances and to report that information to the Mayor. The Mayor then has the option of removing that member from the committee. Members thought the recommendation of removal for people who don't attend meetings should be followed. They also questioned whether agenda items kept people away.

A central question is why it was felt necessary to change the composition of the committee. One speaker had stated that if an item came to a vote he would vote as it favored his organization not what was best for the Center and this statement troubled Commission members. Advisory Committee members are there to represent the best interests of the Center and if you put the interests of your institutional organization ahead of the Center you are not doing your job. The Park Commission wants the Advisory Committee to be functional. If we go back to the membership as it stood prior to the July vote will individuals still be representing their institutional interest or will they be representing the interests of the Center. If we adopt Option B, the Common Council still must approve it, just as the July vote must go to the Council for approval. The only option that doesn't need to go to the Council is if we go back to the original committee structure.

Option B addresses the quorum issues but it doesn't address voting by the institutional members. Clarification of institutional issues could be handled through an orientation process. A compromise would be to give Option B an opportunity to work for a period of time and to revisit this issue in the future if the

need arises. Members are hopeful the Advisory Committee will address these structural concerns and work to fix them i.e. the problem with the playroom, the lack of quorum, the difference of opinion on governance of the Center and what it should or shouldn't be. The Advisory Committee is just that, an advisory forum to advise the Park Commission. The Park Commission has the authority to set policy and procedures while the Council can approve membership.

The question was called on the reconsideration motion. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

A motion was then made by Chewning/Skidmore to adopt Option B as presented by the Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Committee. **MOTION CARRIED** with MacDonald abstaining.

Registered Speakers:

**NAME**

Jeff Lenzen, in opposition to current plan for Pilgrim Park  
Kathryn Johnson, in opposition to current plan for Pilgrim Park  
Heathcliffe Riday, in opposition to current plan for Pilgrim Park  
Barb Harrass, requesting modification for Reston Heights

Superintendent Morgan felt that a resolution on mowing at Reston Heights could be accomplished with the neighborhood/condo association's offer to help out. He will meet with them to discuss the care of native plant species and mowing patterns.

Pilgrim Park is more complicated. It contains a huge amount of finely mowed athletic field areas and the original plan picked the least objectionable parts. It appears that residents aren't recognizing that Storm Water Utility through its stormwater management is doing a once a year mowing. He is willing to spend some time with them in the park and explain the drainage system. The option of mowing the different sections every other time won't allow the park to be used as it was designed because of the field sports. He would rather work with the 4 or 5 households to come up with a compromise because there is a very distinctive tree line. Commissioners were impressed with the openness of staff who are so responsive to citizens concerns.

A motion was made by Skidmore/MacDonald to refer the Pilgrim Park mowing issue to staff to work out a compromise. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

Registered Speakers:

**NAME**

David Miran, in opposition of 5-year policy  
Tim Shriver - not speaking, in opposition of 5-year policy  
Dan Maney, supports waiting list/grandfather in all current moorers  
Denise Maney - not speaking, in support of waiting list vs. lottery, in opposition of 5-year policy  
Bill Korsgard in support of Option A, in opposition of 5-year policy  
Anne Wiecki, in support grandfather current  
Steve Cook, in support grandfather all current  
Erik Simonson - not speaking in support of grandfather all current, in opposition of 5-year policy

Superintendent Morgan introduced the document entitled Marshall Park Mooring Policies DRAFT II. This document sets out the policies that were agreed to following a meeting with both the city and a group of mooring people. They include abolishing the lottery and creating a formal waiting list, enforcing the vacant mooring buoy policy, and not allowing any sub-letting of buoys. The one item still under consideration is the automatic renewal vs. 5-year turnover policy. One option is to grandfather in all current city tenants and non-city tenants would be grandfathered in if they could produce written verification. The second option would be to place all current tenants on notice that we will be enforcing the 5-year maximum rental period.

Vacancies in the mooring field would be filled from a waiting list that would include all Madison residents' first and then non-Madison residents. It would be difficult to explain to the Common Council why non-Madison residents would have priority over Madison residents for vacancies as long as it is run by the city, paved by the city and managed by the city.

A motion was made by Scarbrough/Skidmore to grandfather in all city residents and those non-city residents if they are able to produce a letter granting them unlimited renewals and to establish two waiting lists, one for residents and another for non-residents with priority for any vacancy to be given to city residents first and then non-residents if there are no more city residents on the waiting list. A friendly amendment was proposed by Barker to eliminate the grandfather portion for both residents and non-residents and let ALL mooring slot holders (current and future) remain as long as they want. Both Scarbrough and Skidmore accepted this amendment. Motion now reads: A motion was made by Scarbrough/Skidmore to allow all mooring tenants, both current and future, to remain as long as they want and to establish two waiting lists, one for residents and another for non-residents, with priority for any vacancy to be given to residents first and then to non-residents, if there are no more City of Madison residents on the waiting list. MOTION CARRIED with Webster voting no.

B. Alcohol Ban in Parks (except with shelter reservation and permit)

Registered Speaker:

**NAME**

Dan Graff - Vilas Neighborhood Association, supports ban

In the recent past when alcohol has been banned in specific parks it has been because of neighbors who have begged for help. It's appropriate that we look at this issue and the question of whether to ban alcohol in Vilas Park or establish a blanket policy for all city parks. Different scenarios were presented from a family picnicking with a 6-pack of beer to a tailgate party with a keg to an group of people or an alcoholic or group of alcoholics congregating. It was felt that we should not be dealing with this issue one park at a time but it should be addressed citywide. A statement about individual rights was made that users of the park have a right to feel comfortable in the park without being confronted and likewise a person has the right to have a drink at a picnic table.

Superintendent Morgan explained the Milwaukee County policy on alcohol in its parks was that it was only permitted in designated picnic areas or picnic shelters with a permit.



Previously it was noted that a change in family circumstances from stay at home Moms to working families and that cultural change resulted in decreased beach usage. This usage of alcohol and congregating in parks is also related to changes in family circumstances and demographics. There are different groups that are congregating from Hispanic men who sit around and party to young people doing the same thing to the homeless. For many of these groups, going to a public place is their only social outlet. This may be viewed as intimidating by other groups. Any policy will should to be uniform throughout the park system and will need careful wording to identify the behaviors. The policy will also need to be explained to the various groups and what consequences will result if they do not comply. Members felt a blanket ban on alcohol was not the answer. The culture is changing and the broader community needs to be aware of those changes. Many different scenarios that had been observed in the past few weeks were presented, such as picnics, tailgating parties, and individuals who were passed out/sleeping. Parks with the worst alcohol consumption are parks where alcohol is already banned. Staff deal with broken bottles on sidewalks and in the grass, and trash and litter strewn about. MacDonald spoke of the intimidating atmosphere that people feel when in certain parks where informal groups congregate and drink. The Park Commission can develop a policy that addresses specific behaviors in parks that are offensive, threatening and/or invasive, but in order to get police enforcement of that policy it will need to go to the Common Council for approval. There are many little things that can be done to change the surroundings, such as asking them to clean up after themselves, moving picnic tables and asking police to drive through the parks. If any policy is developed that has an enforcement component, it would need Common Council approval. Commissioners went on record supporting an ad hoc task force of the Park Commission to gather input and identify behaviors to avoid stereotyping and cultural practices of celebration. A motion was made by Webster/MacDonald to appoint of subcommittee of the Park Commission to study the problem of abusive use of alcohol and related behaviors in city parks and prepare recommendations to the Park Commission. Resource people to be invited to provide input would include Joel Plant, the city's Alcohol Coordinator, police from the districts, a Parks Division designee, Centro Hispano and individuals representing different cultures. Discussion to understand different cultures should also be included. Park Commissioners who will serve on this ad hoc committee are: Emanuel Scarbrough, Betty MacDonald, Santiago Rosas, Paul Skidmore and Steve Webster. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Report on Trust Funds for Brittingham Boathouse

Chair Barker announced that an open house would be held at the Brittingham Boathouse on September 14, 2006 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Superintendent Morgan stated that he had been requested to look at the funding for the Boathouse because there is no electricity or HVAC. The exterior of the Boathouse is finished but the looming issue for Parks is the inability to secure the building without lighting or an alarm system. The funds for that work are not in the Parks budget but it needs to happen. The Hollister Trust Fund has been used for this project twice in the past. The first was the challenge grant in the sum of \$100,000 that the Boathouse Fundraising Group matched and the second was to cover the overage on the original contract. Various Trust Fund accounts have been tapped for different parks projects over the years in accordance with

their stated purposes. They allow Parks to provide the extras that wouldn't be available with only city funding. The stonework on the Elver shelter and the restroom at Olin Park are examples.

The original estimate for the electrical was \$50,000 but with rising construction costs it is anticipated that \$70,000 is more realistic. The building could continue to function without the electrical work but there are just a couple of light bulbs hanging inside the building. If the funds were provided for the electrical it would bring the building to a usable structure. Additionally the wainscoting and interior restoration, bathrooms and HVAC work awaits completion. Members felt if the funds were approved for the electrical work, that the non-profit group should be responsible for the balance needed to complete the restoration. A motion was made by Chewning/MacDonald to approve the use of up to \$75,000 from the McClellan Dodge Trust Fund for the electrical work at the Brittingham Boathouse Restoration. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

**B. Cherokee Boardwalk**

Chair Barker stated earlier this evening members went on a field trip to view the Boardwalk remnants. Widstrand reported that the Cherokee Boardwalk was built in the early 1970's through a school program and there was lots of labor available to keep it maintained. When the school program ended, Parks had great difficulty in keeping the Boardwalk repaired. In January 2005 a major portion of it was removed because of safety concerns. There has been lots of demand from the neighborhood, park users and teachers who conduct educational programs to have it rebuilt. There are environmental concerns that have been expressed by our staff and others about the potential damage to the marsh and sedge mat if it is rebuilt in that same location. Parks has investigated the issues of construction on a floating sedge mat where depths of peat above sand vary greatly. Experts that have been consulted concluded that the boardwalk would have to be built on pilings. Construction estimates are \$250,000+ to build it the way it should be built

Registered Speaker:

**NAME**

Pat Woicek, supports new plan

The speaker did not want the boardwalk rebuilt if it would damage the sedge meadow. She suggested rebuilding a portion with two areas where people could stand to view the marsh. Commissioners felt this was an excellent compromise to avoid damage to the marsh through the use of heavy equipment. This option would provide a feeling of being in the marsh and a place for children to have lessons and people to sit and look at birds. A motion was made by MacDonald/Webster to refer this issue to the Habitat Stewardship Committee for further study and recommendation. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Skidmore/MacDonald the meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.