



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, October 19, 2005

6:30 PM

1625 Northport Dr. (WPCRC)

CALL TO ORDER

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Ald. Paul E. Skidmore, William Barker, Randall L. Glysch, Betty Chewning and Emanuel Scarbrough

Absent: Ald. Santiago Rosas

Excused: Betty N. MacDonald

Parks staff present: James Morgan, Si Widstrand, Elinor Riley, Dean Kahl, LaVonne LaFave

President Barker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

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 motion was made by Glysch/Scarbrough to approve the Minutes of the September 14, 2005 regular meeting of the Park Commission. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 14, 2005

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Olbrich Botanical Society Minutes of August 16, 2005 Meeting

A motion was made by Glysch/Skidmore to accept the Minutes of the August 16, 2005 meeting of the Olbrich Botanical Society. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- B. Warner Park Community Recreation Center Minutes of August 17, 2005 Meeting

A motion was made by Skidmore/Glysch to accept the Minutes of the August 17, 2005 meeting 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 tough issues that had come before the Park Commission at its September meeting and how impressed he was with the level of staff support and the level of understanding and involvement by the Commissioners. He thanked all involved for their exemplary participation and that it depicts the orderly administration of issues that come before the Park Commission.

President Barker asked for a volunteer to serve on the Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Committee. The current Park Commission representative, Alder Skidmore, has a conflict with another city meeting and has asked to have a replacement for this assignment.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS

A. Written Report of Supervisor's Activities

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

B. Budget Update

Superintendent Morgan reported that the 2006 budget process is continuing. The 2006 Operating Budget that has been released to the Council does not provide the same level of support for Parks as in previous budgets. Parks budget has been reduced in gross dollars by \$530,000 with the majority of those cuts coming in the Cemetery, Mall Concourse and Warner Park Community Recreation Center portions. It will be necessary to increase no mow areas throughout the park system by 125 to 200 acres. The staff recommendation on the increased areas will be provided to the Park Commission for its approval at their January 2006 meeting. There will also need to be a contingency plan if there is a wet summer with lots of grass growth, in which case additional acreage may be placed into no-mow criteria. No-mow areas would be reseeded with native plant materials to provide a more attractive view. He noted the circular flowerbed at Warner Park Community Recreation Center is similar to what could be done in no mow areas. There are lots of environmental reasons to enlarge no-mow areas in parks.

While the Mayor did restore funding for cross country skiing and outdoor ice skating rinks, several currently vacant positions were abolished. These cuts total more than a 4% salary savings. In addition, Parks will have to absorb the longevity and step increases together with all utility rate increases, starting the 2006 parks budget approximately \$800,000 in the hole. The budget does not have noticeable programming and service cuts since the no-mow areas are not as noticeable as discontinuing a program/service.

In response to a question, Superintendent Morgan stated that the Local 60 labor contract had been settled with a higher raise than had been anticipated. Other unions in the city settled for a 2% raise while Local 60 wanted 2.5%. The arbitrator ruled in favor of the Union. Hopefully, Parks will not need to absorb the additional 0.5% over the 2% it had budgeted.

- C. Termination of Lease with The Collins House, Inc.

This item was informational.

- D. E-Mails regarding Park and Pleasure Drive/Edgewood Drive

The e-mails were informational.

Rosas arrived at 6:45 p.m.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES

- A. E-Mail Correspondence from Doren Sterne regarding Madison Ice Arena Public Skating.

Superintendent Morgan reported that this individual had attended an adult figure skating class at the ice arenas prior to their sale to the parents group last year. This was a program the city ran that had a very small number of people at a low use time. Following that sale, their governing body, which has figure skaters on the board, reviewed class participation levels and chose to discontinue the adult figure skating class because of low participation. Because the city is acting as the bank in this purchase, the citizen contacted her alder, who, in turn, referred the matter to the Park Commission for resolution. Their first year was very successful due in part to lower labor costs. The alder took the position that the Park Commission should decide whether to continue with the sale or declare the buyers haven't kept the terms of the agreement. Parks staff contacted the new owners and managers of the two ice arenas who have been upfront about the costs of hiring an instructor and paying for ice time for a program with very low participation. This is the only person who has complained about the discontinuance of the adult figure skating class. A motion was made by Glysch/Skidmore to place the correspondence on file. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

- B. Elver Park July Fourth 2005 Wrap-Up Meeting Minutes of August 23, 2005

A motion was made by Skidmore/Rosas to accept the Minutes of the Elver Park July Fourth 2005 meeting of August 23, 2005. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

- C. [02035](#) Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a lease with Jerry Leister for four tracts of City-owned land comprising approximately 28 acres. 16th Ald. Dist

A motion was made to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by acclamation.

- D. [02122](#) Amending Sec. 8.215(1) of the Madison General Ordinances to require users to obtain a permit prior to launching a boat or parking a vehicle or trailer in designated lake access parking lot areas.

Rerefer to the BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS The Commissioners received an e-mail request from Ron Shutvet requesting a one-month referral.

- E. [02130](#) SUBSTITUTE - Authorizing the execution of an Underground Telecommunication Easement to Charter Communications Wisconsin Bell d/b/a SBC Wisconsin across a City-owned Park property located at 101 North Thornton Avenue. 2nd Ald. Dist.

A motion was made to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by acclamation.

- F. [02131](#) Authorizing the execution of an Underground Telecommunication Easement to Charter Communications across a City-owned Park property located at 101 North Thornton Avenue. 2nd Ald. Dist.

A motion was made to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by acclamation.

- G. Two requests for Olin Park on Weekend of August 25-27, 2006

1. E-mail request from Scott Reeder of Tacklebox Productions, LLC. dated September 26, 2005 requesting use of Olin Park for a two-day musical festival on August 26-27, 2006.

Commissioners stated they wanted to see all potential users treated fairly and were concerned about bumping patrons out of their reservations. At this point the Commissioners felt they had not seen any good faith effort by either promoter and requested that each be sent a letter stating that the Park Commission was unable to review their event due to lack of supporting documentation. Each may resubmit the application and fee by a given date in order to be considered at the November Park Commission meeting.

2. E-mail request from Ken Adamany of Jam Productions, Ltd./Last Coast Producing dated October 11, 2005 requesting use of Olin Park for The Madison Blues Festival 2006 on August 25-26, 2006.

Riley explained Parks received two incomplete requests for Olin Park the weekend of August 25-27, 2006. The information in the packets indicates that sufficient information was requested from both promoters in order to be able to make a recommendation. Insufficient documentation was submitted by one promoter and no information was offered by the other, nor were application fees submitted by either; therefore no recommendation can be made at this time. She also informed the Commissioners that the weekend is being held pending the receipt of additional information and that this is a premier location. This past Monday there were more than 50 people standing in line to reserve Olin Park for their events. Weekends are a premium time and unfortunately at this time that weekend is unavailable. Returning special events are entered in the reservation calendar prior to reservations being accepted by the general public. Also taken into consideration is the value of the event to the greater good to the community.

Commissioners recognized that the Park Commission has had prior dealings with one of the promoters. Past practice has been that the first complete application takes precedence when scheduling events. It was suggested that both promoters be informed that completed applications be submitted by a specific date or that those dates would be opened to the general public for reservations.

Superintendent Morgan noted that in addition to the application for an event, there is also a fee to be paid. Neither of the applicants has submitted the requisite fee at this point. The promoter that canceled last year didn't pay the fee to hold the dates. This event has the potential of involving other city offices. Riley noted that the date is currently blocked out on the calendar and not available to the general public. A letter can be sent to both parties indicating that the Park Commission was unable to make a decision due to a lack of information and they can appear at the November Park Commission meeting provided their applications are complete and the special event application fee has been paid.

Commissioners stated they did not want to extend this courtesy in the future if the reservation policy was not followed. Individuals should not expect to receive special consideration by going through another office. There is incredible competition for the use of Olin Pavilion/Park and people are standing in line outside the building overnight to ensure they will get the date they want.

An explanation of how returning special events were handled was provided. Dates for returning special events of long standing are blocked out prior to the beginning of the reservation process for the general public. These include, but are not limited to: Rhythm & Booms, Elver Fireworks, Homebrewers, many of the walks/runs. The public is told that certain dates are unavailable in designated parks via posting on the Parks website and posting on the door the day reservations begin. If we were to go to a single system where everyone stands in line, long-term events will be in limbo not knowing which park they might be at or whether they could get their annual date. The August weekend was blocked out in anticipation of approval at this meeting. Both promoters knew they were on the agenda for tonight's meeting and they were to make presentations to the Park Commission. However, it is not certain that a forfeiture of the dates was clear if they did not attend the meeting. It was also noted this is the only date that was blocked out where there is a problem with the arrangements. Parks does not maintain a waiting list for any of its shelters.

A motion was made by Rosas/Skidmore to place both applications on file.
MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

VII. PUBLIC HEARING - 7:00 P.M. - DISEASED AND DEAD ELMS AND OAKS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY, 2004 REQUIRING CONDEMNATION

President Barker declared the Public Hearing open at 7:13 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Registered Speakers:

Richard McCann, 211 East LakeView **OPPOSED**
Sandy Gordon, 210 Morningside **OPPOSED**
Gail Miller, 1813 Rowley neutral - questions about process
Debra Claric, 4801 Buckeye neutral - questions about process

Following the speakers, a motion was made by Glysch/Rosas to declare the Public Hearing Closed. **MOTION CARRIED**

A motion was made by Glysch/Rosas to declare the list of diseased and dead elms and oaks a public nuisance in accordance with City of Madison General Ordinance 23.40(4)(B) and to direct City Forestry to issue removal notices.
MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Commissioner Skidmore excused himself during the public hearing in order to attend and provide quorum at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center meeting.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Westmorland Park Drainage Improvements and Tornado Cleanup

Widstrand displayed a map showing the proposed opening that would be created to install the drainage pipe through the woods. A rain garden would also be built at the north end to allow filtration of the water to catch some of the sediment before it would enter the storm sewer pipes draining down to the "Duck" Pond on Monroe Street. Work on this project began with the neighborhood two years ago and was controversial because the trees marked in red (on the map) were alive and well. Then the tornado swept through and opened a big area of downed trees. The pipe was shifted into that new opening which minimized additional tree damage and allowed crews to clean up the mess from the tornado. The neighborhood's initial concern was that all the water not travel through the pipe because they wanted some water to infiltrate back into the ground and did not want to create a large rock lined channel through the woods. They wanted the pipe underground, the gullies filled in and plant vegetation over the top of it. The rain garden will help with the filtration of water back into the ground and should also result in less sedimentation in pond off Monroe Street.

President Barker referred the Commissioners to the letter of support for this project from the Friends of Lake Wingra.

A motion was made by Rosas/Chewning to approve the Westmorland Park Drainage Improvements and Tornado Cleanup. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

X. NEW BUSINESS

None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Rosas/Glysch the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

ADDENDUM

02204

Accepting an Offer to Sell from B and B Family Limited Partnership and Robert A. Blettner for approximately 52.05 acres of wetlands and 12.40 acres of uplands for park and open space for the Starkweather Creek Open Space located in the Madison Corporate Center plat. 15th Ald. Dist.

A motion was made to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. Widstrand reported this project has been in the development states for decades and appears to finally have fallen into place. He displayed a public ownership map of the Starkweather Creek watershed depicting city parkland, county open space, and various environmental corridors. He indicated where redevelopment is occurring and is about to start as well as bike trail and hiking trail connections. He pointed out the location of the proposed acquisition, which is very close to the parks on the east side near the Yahara River. Roughly 52 acres of the land is wetlands with a little over 12 acres for park and open space. It is adjacent to the Voit property to be developed in the City of Madison as part of the Blooming Grove Boundary Agreement. This acquisition will secure the northern area and with the redevelopment of the Voit property will secure a corridor along the Creek and around the gravel excavation ponds. Approximately 100 acres will be open space, with the most significant piece of the acquisition the 12 acres of developable land that sits in the middle of the open space. Blettner was well aware of Parks interest in this project and has offered to donate the wetland acreage. The city would purchase the upland acreage and it is possible that Stewardship Funds could be used for that purchase. In the recent past Stewardship Grants have been limited to nature-based recreation, not for parking lots. Nature-based recreation is the plan for that area and thus very appropriate for a Stewardship Grant. In the future a decision will need to be made on whether the ponds whose depths are unknown, would remain or be drained when the area is developed. Alterations may be required in order to keep them as some type of water feature. The portion of the Voit property fronting Milwaukee Street would be developed. The motion passed by acclamation.