



**City of Madison**  
**Meeting Minutes - Draft**  
**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*

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Wednesday, March 9, 2005

6:30 PM

1625 NORTHPORT DR (WPCRC)

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** William W. Barker, Randall L. Glysch, Betty Chewning, Emanuel Scarbrough and Betty N. MacDonald

**Excused:** Ald. Santiago Rosas and Ald. Paul E. Skidmore

*Parks staff present: James P. Morgan, Diane Dabbert, Kurt Osborne, Elinor Riley, Si Widstrand*

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 9, 2005

A motion was made by MacDonald, seconded by Glysch, to Approve the Minutes . The motion passed by acclamation.

Approve the Minutes

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no members of the public who wished to comment on items not on the Agenda. President Barker thanked those present for coming to the meeting and indicated the Commission valued their input.

**V. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARK COMMISSION**

President Barker, Vice President Glysch and Superintendent Morgan met and discussed the challenges the city's park system is facing and how best to meet them. Those challenges include more and more people that love and use the parks and more and more areas that are being designated parks but there are also declining fiscal resources to allow us to pass that legacy on to future generations . There is huge support for the parks and there is also a very competent staff to meet those challenges. He encouraged fellow Commissioners to build partnerships with citizens, neighborhood associations and "Friends of" groups and to establish ways to work with the Foundation more closely.

**VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS**

Superintendent Morgan thanked President Barker for organizing the meeting and felt it was very beneficial. The updated Polices contain the changes approved at the last meeting.

A. Written Report

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

B. Update on Pool

Morgan reported that the scholarship fund had reached more than \$75,000 and would allow those in need to utilize the new swimming pool for lessons and general use. Fund-raising has been very successful and it has been rewarding to see all the contributions coming in - from \$1 on up.

C. Concert Proposal

A firm proposal from the concert promoter has not yet been received and the Parks office is getting requests for those dates. The promoter has been advised that if a firm proposal is not received we will not continue to hold those dates.

D. Policies and Procedures of the City of Madison Park Commission

Informational.

General

MacDonald commented she saw Superintendent Morgan on a televised public appearance and praised him, stating that his presence was welcoming and congenial.

Scarborough inquired about pool scholarships. Superintendent Morgan said one of the primary goals of the Swimming Pool Committee was to be able to provide swimming lessons and lifeguard training to those in need. He commended the community for their donations to the scholarship fund as well as a master swimmer's group who have volunteered to provide the necessary training to encourage South Madison kids to become lifeguards. He is looking forward to an extremely diverse workforce at the pool, from front line attendants to lifeguards.

## VII. CORRESPONDENCE, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES

- A. The closing hours at Olbrich Botanical Gardens will be extended to 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 25, 2005 for the 18th annual Rhapsody in Bloom benefit dinner and dance.

Sponsors: Paul E. Skidmore and Santiago Rosas

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

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER

- B. Creating Section 8.43 of the Madison General Ordinances regarding operation

of municipal swimming pools by the Board of Park Commissioners and regarding fees for use of pools to cover direct costs and a reserve.

**Sponsors:** Zachariah Brandon, Judy Compton, Cindy Thomas, Paul J. Van Rooy and Ronn Ferrell

**A motion was made by Chewning, seconded by Glysch, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER Superintendent Morgan stated this ordinance is designed to create an understanding that the pool is to be operated with a zero bottom line in order not to have it become an enterprise operation with its accompanying charges for debt service, payment in lieu of taxes and inter-agency work. He also noted the wording on this Ordinance could change. BOE referred it to their meeting of 3/21 and has not yet taken any action.**

The motion passed by acclamation.

**RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER Superintendent Morgan stated this ordinance is designed to create an understanding that the pool is to be operated with a zero bottom line in order not to have it become an enterprise operation with its accompanying charges for debt service, payment in lieu of taxes and inter-agency work. He also noted the wording on this Ordinance could change. BOE referred it to their meeting of 3/21 and has not yet taken any action.**

- C. Authorizing design and implementation of a Public Art Work, not to exceed \$75,000.00 for a public art work at the Goodman Swimming Pool.

**Sponsors:** Mayor Cieslewicz, Judy Compton, Jean M. MacCubbin and Michael E. Verveer

**A motion was made by Chewning, seconded by Glysch, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval. The motion passed by acclamation.**

**Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval**

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

- D. Request from Madison Department of Public Health regarding use of Warner Park Community Recreation Center for a clinic to distribute antibiotic medication to decontaminated USPS employees in the event of a biohazard exposure.

A motion was made by Chewning/Scarborough to approve the request from Madison Department of Public Health regarding use of Warner Park Community Recreation Center for a clinic to distribute antibiotic medication to decontaminate USPS employees in the event of a biohazard exposure, subject to a positive recommendation from the WPCRC Advisory Committee. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Registered Speakers:

NAME	SUPPORT
OPPOSE	
Dr. Kathryn Vedder, Public Health Dept. Director	XX
John Hausbeck, Public Health Dept.	XX
Steve Werlein, US Postal Service	XX
Brad Weisinger, WPCRC Manager	XX
Jeff Huntley, US Postal Service	XX

Hausbeck reported no supplies would be stored at Warner Park Community Recreation Center (WPCRC). Dr. Vedder stated other sites are considered for different types of threats, including schools. The postal service type of threat is not as large and doesn't warrant the possible disruption of the school system. The clinic that would be recommended for WPCRC would be for employees at the Milwaukee Street Post Office WPCRC Facility Manager Weisinger requested that a recommendation be received from the WPCRC Advisory Committee before final approval is given by the Park Commission. If the Advisory Committee does not approve the recommendation, the Park Commission will hold a special meeting to discuss this issue.

- E. Petition from users of Sycamore Off-Leash Dog Park for the installation of lights

Registered Speakers:

NAME	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Cheri Seeger	supports lights but thinks Quann fencing should be higher priority	
Steve Oasen	XX	
Ann Lynch	XX	
Barbara Gilligan	XX	
Marguerite Payne	supports lights but thinks Quann fencing should be higher priority	

Superintendent Morgan reported the Parks Division is looking at three projects this year. The permit money generated just over \$70,000. Parks staff have received input from dog park users into how that money gets spent. The three projects are the perimeter fencing at Quann, the request for lighting at Sycamore and an ADA request to make at least some of our dog parks wheel chair accessible. We can probably do parts of all of them. The City Engineer who oversees the landfill operation will not allow the cap penetrated at Sycamore or Quann Parks for the installation of lights. For that reason solar lighting is being studied. It was suggested the issue be referred to the Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee to look at the requests and prioritize them to see what can be accomplished in 2005.

Superintendent Morgan, in response to a statement from a speaker that funds had been diverted to other departments from the dog park program, went on record stating that absolutely was not true. He stated he was offended by the accusations that were made. There is an agreement with Animal Control to patrol the dog parks and they get a certain percentage of money from the dedicated fund, controlled by the City Comptroller's office and money is not used for any other purpose. The money paid to the Health Department for Animal Control officers is based on the number of hours spent patrolling dog parks and is substantiated by written documentation. There are audit and accounting documents on file to support his statements. A copy of the permit fee documentation was given to the speaker.

Under questioning from Commissioners, speakers objected to the funds being divided among the three projects and challenged the ADA paths. Some thought that fencing at Quann should come first and then lighting at Sycamore. Supporters of lighting said it was a personal safety issue because of uneven terrain that cannot be seen at night, but solar lighting is very expensive. Superintendent Morgan stated the ADA access paths at Warner Park are the #1 priority.

Morgan explained that there are conflicts at Quann between the bikers and dog owners as to how paths would be fenced there. Bikers want the paths outside the fence and dog owners want the paths inside the fenced area. Scarbrough said the paths are used by bikers and walkers for commuting downtown and, in the future, could be used for commuting to the new swimming pool at Goodman Park. Morgan acknowledged this problem and added that gates would probably not be the best answer. The cost of the fence is unknown as yet but Morgan will meet with the Alliant Center to discuss the fencing issue.

A motion was made by Glysch/MacDonald to refer the three dog park projects to

the Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee to determine the priorities for them.  
MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

- F. Request from Alder Compton to locate a neighborhood association sign on the Monona Golf Course property

Registered Speakers:

NAME	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Doug Klitzkie	XX	
Dick McGrath	XX	
Jerome Lund, City Planning Dept		Neutral

The Glendale Neighborhood sign needs a new home because it's original placement was actually in Monona and not in Madison. The association wants the sign to be relocated to the north side of Pflaum Road on Monona Golf Course property. Widstrand stated that the Parks Division has consistently opposed putting neighborhood signs in parks and has nothing to do with the aesthetics or design of the signs but rather the aesthetics of the parks. If one sign is allowed, more will follow and they will continue to multiply. He suggested a site south of Pflaum Road on right-of-way that is in the City of Madison. The neighborhood did not speak with either the golf course personnel or come before the Golf Committee to ask permission to place the sign on golf course property.

A motion was made by Scarbrough/Glysch to reject the request to place the neighborhood sign on Monona Golf Course property but endorse the placement of the neighborhood sign in the location designated by Si Widstrand. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a three-year contract with the MAD -City Ski Team, Inc. for the 2005 through 2007 seasons.

A motion was made by Scarbrough, seconded by MacDonald, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER It was reported that the ski team paid a fee of \$219.90 plus 12% of the MSCR ski lesson program fees held in conjunction with the ski team. The total fee is a little over \$500. Chewing stated that private groups have to pay large fees for events in parks and she thought the ski team rental fee was quite low. Riley replied that the team does not get exclusive use and they offer an opportunity for water skiing to city residents. They rent their own port-a-johns and there is no extra run for garbage pick-up. There is no real cost to the City for MAD city team. Other events have regular scheduling fees and some worthy events must be turned down.

A motion was made by Scarbrough/MacDonald to approve the Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a three-year contract with the MAD-City Ski Team, Inc. for the 2005 through 2007 seasons. MOTION CARRIED with one nay (Chewing).

The motion passed by the following vote:

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER It was reported that the ski team paid a fee of \$219.90 plus 12% of the MSCR ski lesson program fees held in conjunction with the ski team. The total fee is a little over \$500. Chewing stated that private groups have to pay large fees for events in parks

and she thought the ski team rental fee was quite low. Riley replied that the team does not get exclusive use and they offer an opportunity for water skiing to city residents. They rent their own port-a-johns and there is no extra run for garbage pick-up. There is no real cost to the City for MAD city team. Other events have regular scheduling fees and some worthy events must be turned down.

A motion was made by Scarbrough/MacDonald to approve the Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a three-year contract with the MAD-City Ski Team, Inc. for the 2005 through 2007 seasons. MOTION CARRIED with one nay (Chewning).

**Excused:** Rosas and Skidmore  
**Aye:** Barker, Glysch, Scarbrough and MacDonald  
**Abstain:** Chewning

## IX. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Madison Parks Foundation Request regarding Carousel

The Parks Foundation is holding the old carousel in storage at Franklin Field and they are interested in obtaining public opinion as to what to do with it. Future storage space will not be available. Glysch and President Barker commented that the open and transparent way to make the decision is to consult the public. The Foundation is still exploring the condition of the carousel, its history and worth. The Madison Parks Foundation is not interested in resurrecting the carousel. Questions regarding what are the costs of restoration and operation and whether there is an ideal place in a park for it were posed. MacDonald noted a discussion took place years ago to place the carousel in Vilas Park and the decision was that it not be placed in Vilas Park because of the size of the park and the undesirability of bringing in more traffic to the park. It would be extremely expensive to build a structure to house the carousel. Originally, it stood outside.

It was the consensus of the Commission that a public listening would be held at a future Park Commission meeting..

### B. Forest Hill Cemetery Request to amend Cemetery Policies regarding placement of seasonal decorations at grave sites

Cemetery Manager Kurt Osborne informed the Board that many decorations at the cemetery are not covered in the Parks rules. Clarification of what is appropriate or not appropriate is needed. Personal things are being put on grave sites such as wind chimes, shepherd hooks for plants, birds on sticks, food, etc. Many people who visit the cemetery do not like these decorations but Osborne said the rules are not specific as to what is allowed. When asked, Osborne said that in general, the decorations do cause a big problem for Parks Staff maintenance. The usual practice has been to remove seasonal decorations and place them behind the mausoleum for pick up. Chewing suggested that only natural items be allowed as decorations. Discussion also covered cultural traditions.

A motion was made by Chewing./MacDonald to direct Osborne to work with Parks staff and the City Attorney's Office to amend the regulations and submit the revisions to the Park Commission for approval. It was noted that the Park Commission has the authority to set fees and regulations for the cemetery. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

C. Friends of Lake Wingra Vilas Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration

Registered Speaker:

NAME	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Jim Lorman, Friends of Lake Wingra	XX	

A map showing the Vilas native vegetation buffer demonstration project was distributed. Part of the impetus for this program is to reduce the filtrate going into the water and encouraging shoreline habitat restoration in various areas. This area also has a high density of geese and Edgewood students have been monitoring their numbers since 2001. Research has shown that higher vegetation along shores discourages geese from entering water. The Friends of Lake Wingra would like to establish a partnership between the county, the city, Edgewood College and neighborhood associations to contribute to this demonstration project. Many details remain regarding protection for the plants as they establish their root systems. President Barker commended Lorman's plan and said the strategy fits with his vision of establishing partnerships to benefit the park system.

Superintendent Morgan reported there has been a long history of volunteers working on planting projects in the City. He said the Union will not oppose this type of volunteer work and it would not take jobs away from other employees.

Commissioners congratulated Lorman and voiced their support for this plan.

D. Rennebohm Park Plan Updates and 2005 Improvements



Widstrand advised that following his presentation, he would ask for approval of the Master Plan and approval of the matching funds application by Hill Farms Neighborhood Association for the playground expansion. The process began more than a year ago to update the Master Plan for Rennebohm Park. New housing in the area generated park fee money. The neighborhood is changing as more young families are moving into the area. He explained the moderate changes in the paths, fields and parking area. The current plan is for the paths to remain unpaved but this issue may be addressed again in the future. Minor encroachments have been discovered and the property owners have been asked to remove them. Some means of identifying the property line between public and private property will be designated. A recommendation to remove the light poles from the old skating rink was received. Residents were not interested in paved parking near the shelter, but agreed field parking in that location for special events such as concerts. Special Events sponsors would be responsible for monitoring that parking. The playground expansion will be built to area park design criteria and the Hill Farms Neighborhood conducted fundraising to add extra pieces.

A motion was made by Glysch/Chewing to approve the revised Master Plan for Rennebohm Park and to approve the People for Parks Matching Fund Application for the expansion of playground equipment. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Chewing, seconded by Glysch, to Adjourn Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m. The motion passed by acclamation.

Adjourn Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.