



**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*

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Wednesday, July 13, 2005

6:30 PM

215 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Room 260

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**PLEASE NOTE THE LOCATION OF THE MEETING HAS CHANGED.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**I. ROLL CALL**

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

**Absent:** Betty Chewning

**Excused:** Emanuel Scarbrough

**Parks staff present:** Si Widstrand, Elinor Riley, LaVonne LaFave

**City Staff present:** Larry Nelson, City Engineer, Ald. Ken Golden

President Barker called the meeting to order at 6:32 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. Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 25, 2005

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

Approve the Minutes

B. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 8, 2005

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

Approve the Minutes

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Golf Committee Minutes of April 26, 2005 Meeting

A motion was made by Glysch/Rosas to accept the Minutes of the April 26, 2005 meeting of the Golf Committee. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

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

**Excused:** Emanuel Scarbrough

B. Olbrich Botanical Society Minutes of May 17, 2005 Meeting

**A motion was made by Glysch/Skidmore to accept the Minutes of the May 17, 2005 meeting of the Olbrich Botanical Society. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

1. Historic Structure Report on Garver Building

Widstrand stated that at their June meeting, the Olbrich Botanical Society accepted the Historic Structure Report as completing the requirements of the contract. The other portion of their motion was to continue to pursue options in the Plan. It was generally agreed that Option Two is by far the most viable option. That option includes some type of public use that doesn't require extensive parking. There has been discussion about an Arts incubator or some type of Arts use, plus space for Olbrich for maintenance and storage. This has been identified as the best option. President Barker also noted that at the June OBS meeting, there was some discussion and concern about the size of the parking area that was specified and felt it was excessive. Widstrand stated part of the reasoning for Option two was that there was more flexibility for parking. The other options had higher parking demands. A motion was made by Skidmore/Glysch to accept the Historic Structure Report on the Garver Building and to endorse Option Two of the Report for adaptive reuse while expressing caution with reference to the number of parking spaces suggested. Further, Parks staff was authorized to prepare an RFP to solicit proposals for Option Two as identified in the report. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

V. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARK COMMISSION

President Barker noted he and his wife attended the annual Rhapsody in Bloom at Olbrich, which is a very nice fundraiser for the gardens. He thanked Olbrich staff for all of their hard work in producing this wonderful event. He also commented on how great the Rose Garden looked.

He then referred to a previous Park Commission meeting where the expansion of the Community Gardens at Quann Park was discussed and noted that there is already a waiting list for spaces there. He spoke of Jessica Bullen, a member of the Community Gardens Committee for the city, who died tragically in a bicycle accident over the July 4th weekend. He stated she was a great advocate for the Community Garden program and will be deeply missed.

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. Park Tour

LaFave distributed invitations to the Park Commissioners for the annual Parks Tour scheduled for August 10, 2005. She stated the tour would cover near Westside parks and facilities, ending with a light supper at Hoyt Park.

C. Fireworks Recap

Riley provided a recap of the two major fireworks events that occurred over the 4th of July weekend. On July 2 at Warner Park, the 13th annual Rhythm & Booms hosted 225,000 people. Madison Fireworks Fund is disappointed in their fundraising this year because of the live music and recording artist. The clean up after the event was also disappointing when approximately 15 people volunteered to help. On July 4, Capstar/ Clear Channel Radio hosted its second annual fireworks display at Elver Park. Approximately 25,000 attended that event. They had a walk/run in the morning and the middle of the day activities were not as favorable due to the rainy weather. Clear Channel felt it was a successful event and they had great support from police in helping to close the park at 10:00 p.m. Written reports from the North and West Precinct police captains will be forthcoming.

D. Beach Numbers for June

Riley noted that the beach attendance numbers were included in the packets. Numbers are up slightly from last year which is due in part to fewer beach closings so far this year.

Skidmore noted he spoke with Superintendent Morgan regarding Central Park, which is a private park with private funding that is proposed to open on the Isthmus. He requested a report by September on what impact that will have on the Madison Park System's budget, if any, and asked him to identify how it does or does not comply with the Park and Open Space Plan.

## VII. CORRESPONDENCE, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES

- A. Correspondence from Duane Eckerty and Kelly Marquardt of Madison Thunder requesting use of Elver Park on July 16-17 and July 23-24, 2005 to host the Madison Firecracker 2005.

**Registered Speaker: Duane Eckerty in Support of Event.**

Riley explained that because there was a delay in the group returning their paperwork other events had been scheduled in the park. She stated the biggest challenge will be parking and that additional staff will be needed to monitor it because leagues have reserved the soccer fields. Eckerty stated that Madison Thunder would do their own maintenance and lining of the fields. They will need lighted fields and with many groups coming from out of town for the tournament it would be hard to explain different locations if this request is not approved. There are other fields (Warner and Olbrich) that could accommodate portions of the tournament, but cannot provide all the fields they request. Because the team is from the Westside, it would also be difficult for them to get to the other locations to work.

A motion was made by MacDonald/Skidmore to approve the request from Duane Eckerty and Kelly Marquardt of Madison Thunder to use Elver Park on July 16-17 and July 23-24, 2005 to host the Madison Firecracker 2005 subject to sponsor's compliance with staff recommendations and further that Madison Thunder will line the fields they are using and they will cooperate to ensure there are no parking problems. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

- B. Letter from Todd Wilson of Coreweekly requesting use of James Madison Park to promote a three-on-three basketball tournament o September 11, 2005.

Registered Speaker: Todd Wilson Available for questions

A motion was made by Skidmore/Glysch to approve the request of Todd Wilson of Coreweekly to use James Madison Park to promote a three-on-three basketball tournament on September 11, 2005. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

- C. E-Mail from Carol A. Hassemer regarding Elver Park Paths/Disc Golf

Registered Speakers: Brad Wendt in support of Disc Golf  
Marie Schwinn in support of Disc Golf

The speakers reported they had instituted an "Adopt-A-Hole" program among the club users of the course. They agreed that trash has been a problem and suggested putting up signs at the first tee that bottles are not permitted. They would be willing to pay a fee to use the course. Widstrand noted additional problems with the course are related to the amount of play the course gets as well as the total number of players. A regular golf course is irrigated to maintain the turf. Additionally he is concerned that if a fee is charged, it will raise the expectations of the users regarding good playing conditions and those are expectations that Parks can't meet. .

A motion was made by Skidmore/Glysch to accept the correspondence and have staff review the concerns and make recommendations regarding maintenance, the condition of the course and possible fees for the use of the course. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Rosas to take item VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS, A. out of order. 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.

City Engineer Larry Nelson presented an operational plan for Edgewood Drive that had been created to eliminate vehicular traffic except for Sunday afternoons. It would involve two gates near each end of the Drive following a gate system similar to the Arboretum. The gate would need to be opened for emergencies and for snow plowing. Engineering would have keys to unlock the gate on Sunday afternoons and emergency personnel would either have a key or would cut the padlock for entry. One item that isn't addressed in this concept is the requirement that Edgewood would need to have access to the Drive for deliveries or for handicap access to its buildings. There would be padlock pin connections on each side with the middle open to allow bicycles. One gate would be approximately 25 feet beyond the existing driveway into Reges Hall. Vehicles would be able to either back into the driveway to turn around or pull in and back around to get out. The second gate would be near the Sienna Apartments. While there are many possibilities to block the Drive, this plan was chosen because there are already existing facilities where vehicles could turn around and would provide close to a quarter mile for uninhibited pedestrian/bicycle travel.

It has been Engineering's suggestion that due to the deteriorated condition of the Drive that the pavement be replaced as an interim street, which means that a portion of the cost would be assessed to adjoining properties. Any signs that are posted would be determined by the Uniform Traffic Control Manual, and care will be required because the area is not well lighted. Engineering has not addressed the concerns brought forward by the City Attorney's office.

Ald. Golden spoke of four items regarding this issue. He met with Maggie Balistreri Clarke and the new President of Edgewood to discuss the closure. It is his belief that Edgewood will not approve this plan because it does not provide adequate access to Mazzuchelli. There are currently four access points for Edgewood right now. The access on the West is a fire access road only that is built to road standards so it could very easily be used as a turnaround and has a gate and lock already. The next access point is the old driveway into the grade school. Edgewood has the right to have special events and to have access to that parking lot. Mazzuchelli needs an access point that also needs to be accessible and they receive deliveries as well. The final access point is at Sienna Apartments. There is a small 12-space lot that is slated to become a 25-car parking lot. He suggested that Traffic Engineering determine whether the turning radii by Mazzuchelli is sufficient to provide a turnaround at that point. He believes that the current western point or the Mazzuchelli site or any two points that are next to one another could provide the turnaround/closure.

The second item was to remind the Park Commission and the City Attorney that, due to the nature of the legal agreement that created the easement, both the Kublys and Edgewood need to sign off on any change in access to the Drive saying that they won't invoke the reversionary clause. It is also his belief that discussions with the Kublys and Edgewood will take time to reach a resolution to this issue and it would be nice to have it in place by the beginning of the next school year. Lastly, there is the resurfacing project. The neighborhoods will be very interested in maintaining the tree in the middle of the road. MacDonald stressed keeping the road as simple as possible.

Golden then noted that possibly putting in the gate by the fire road would be sufficient. He doesn't believe Edgewood will agree to having two gates installed even though they are totally supportive of closing the Drive as long as they can maintain access to their existing driveways and as long as they aren't required to give up any additional lands. He then suggested the ultimate constraint will be obtaining sign-offs from the Kublys and Edgewood, who won't be difficult as long as their terms and conditions are met. He advised the Park Commission to present their preferred plan to Edgewood and following approval by both the Kublys and Edgewood to have it adopted. He then added that he supports any plan that interrupts the traffic flow and makes it more amenable to pedestrian and bicycle use and doesn't think it matters how many days the gate is closed. Further, he disagrees with the City Attorney's assessment and feels that the updated agreements and Conditional Use Agreements with Edgewood gave the city the right to regulate traffic and the direction of flow so long as the city maintains the pavement and the access points. He stated that it was extremely unlikely that anyone would challenge limited access for automobiles by saying the city was not being a good steward.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Chewning to refer the issue back to Parks Staff to work with Edgewood to reach agreement on restricting automobile access along the Drive. Further, when agreement is reached, to have a Resolution drafted by the City Attorney's office regarding the waiving of the reversionary clauses by both the Kublys and Edgewood, Inc. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously. A suggestion was made to make contact with Edgewood and the neighborhood through the Edgewood Liaison Committee.

D. E-mail from Cathy Cuccia regarding Maintenance of tennis courts at Norman Clayton Park

A motion was made by Skidmore/Rosas to accept the e-mail from Cathy Cuccia regarding Maintenance of tennis courts at Norman Clayton Park and to place it on file. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

Widstrand noted that Superintendent Morgan would be proposing a tennis user fee in the 2006 operational budget to help resolve the maintenance of tennis courts.

Registered Speaker: Charlie Vaughan                      Representing Green Tree N. A. They are interested in maintaining the tennis courts

E. [01471](#)

Amending Section 8.41(4) of the Madison General Ordinances to include the Superintendent of Parks or designee as a member of the staff of the Downtown Coordinating Committee.

A motion was made by Glysch, seconded by Ald. Skidmore, to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER** for August 2, 2005. The motion passed by acclamation.

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

- F. [01494](#) Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a lease with Jerry Leister for five tracts of City-owned land comprising approximately 35 acres.
- A motion was made by Ald. Skidmore, 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**

- G. Request from Cheryl Knox on behalf of WIAA requesting use of Elver Park on two weekends in November for the purpose of hosting both the State and Midwest Regional cross-country events.

**Registered Speaker: Cheryl Knox, representing Wis-USATF**

Widstrand noted he and the Conservation Supervisor worked on revising the course to protect the course from erosion by moving trails out of the woods while still keeping many hills in the course. Riley stated the approval would be subject to the standard recommendations of adhering to park policies, the payment of fees, and providing insurance. Parks staff are moving forward based on Knox's indication that Wis-USATF can comply with the recommendations.

A motion was made by Glysch/Rosas to approve the Request from Cheryl Knox on behalf of WIAA requesting use of Elver Park on two weekends in November for the purpose of hosting both the State and Midwest Regional cross-country events subject to the sponsor's agreement to the adherence of Parks Division policies and recommendations. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- B. 2006 Final Capital Budget

Widstrand distributed the final version of the 2006 Capital budget that was submitted to the Mayor's office.

- C. [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.

Widstrand reported the Westside Senior Center requested that this item be referred until after the Park Commission has an opportunity to view the site during the August tour. A motion was made by Rosas/Glysch to refer this item to the September 14 Park Commission meeting. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- D. Vilas Park Parking

An informational e-mail to Alder Knox was submitted in the packets. The parking lots are full during the week with commuters and construction workers. A recommendation was made to follow up with the alder to institute a policy similar to that used at Brittingham for all of the parking lots within Vilas Park. It was noted that this issue has also been referred to the Long Range Planning Committee to study parking issues in parks that are located close to schools, businesses and the Isthmus area.

E. 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.

F. Park and Open Space Plan and City of Madison Comprehensive Plan Update  
(park, open space and natural resource portions)

Widstrand stated the Park and Open Space sections of the city's Comprehensive Plan are on one time line. Comment Sheets for the city's portion were distributed to the Commissioners. The Comprehensive Plan sections are a summary of the Park and Open Space Plan that is also being updated. The Long Range Planning Committee has discussed the POSP and provided some revisions that will be incorporated into it. He anticipates another meeting with the Long Range Planning Committee sometime before September to present a draft that incorporates the revisions. It will then be circulated for public review and put out on a website for comments. It is anticipated it will be brought before the Park Commission in October for finalization. The city's Comprehensive Plan will follow shortly thereafter.

He asked for comments and/or edits from the Commission. Suggestions included a section on security and safety in neighborhood parks and parks in general, such as the locations of buildings and lights; a section that encourages collaboration and cooperation between neighborhoods and the Parks Division for maintenance and special projects; community support for parks, partnerships, volunteers and adopt-a-parks, grants, etc.; discussion about what are appropriate forms of participation, i.e. volunteer work, cash, time, materials, etc.; the role of community gardens in parks. He then displayed large maps showing the locations of various parks and an analysis of park deficiencies by area. Some areas may have large expanses of open space but not much developed active park space and athletic fields. The number one thing to be done regarding park deficiencies is to try to preserve most of the school lands if they should ever cease to be schools. This had always been a policy in the plan. Parks had hoped to enter into some type of agreement with the School District but that has not occurred. Parks will work on this if and when school closings happen.

A question was asked regarding the replacement of playground equipment. In order to expand the amount of playground equipment that's available it should be done on a citywide standard. Prior to 1995, it had not been very well distributed and that is why it was not replaced in some parks when much of the equipment was removed due to safety issues. Prior to that time if neighborhoods were more aggressive in making requests, they received additional equipment. Since that time the redistribution of playground equipment is taking place based on population density and service areas.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**X ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Skidmore/MacDonald the meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.