



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Draft BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday, October 13, 2010

6:30 PM 1625 Northport Dr. # (Warner Park Community Recreation Center)

The regular meeting of the Madison Board of Park Commissioners was held on Wednesday, October 13, 2010 at Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Avenue. President Barker called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Parks staff present: Kevin Briski, Steve Doniger, Russ Hefty, Eric Knepp, Kay Rutledge, Jim Weinstock, LaVonne LaFave.

City Staff present: Sgt. Joe Balles, Officer Dave Dexheimer, Police; Jule Stroick, Planning Dept.; Jim Whitney, Engineering/Facilities Mgt.

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 7 -

Madelyn D. Leopold; Joseph R. Clausius; Paul E. Skidmore; William W. Barker; David L. Wallner; Betty Chewning and Emanuel Scarbrough

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Clausius/Leopold to approve the Minutes of the September 1, 2010 regular meeting of the Park Commission. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Registered speakers:

NAME	Issue
Lori Chadli	Opposes killing of resident Canada geese in Warner Park
Trish O'Kane	Update on Geese in Warner Park

It was announced there will be two public meetings to discuss the goose management issue in Madison's parks. They are scheduled for October 19 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Yahara Hills Golf Course and on November 16 from 6:30 to 8:00 .m. at the Goodman Maintenance Facility. This information is also posted on the Parks website.

IV. REPORTS

Golf Subcommittee

A motion was made by Scarbrough/Wallner to accept the Minutes of the May 18, 2010 Meeting of the Golf Subcommittee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Scarbrough added that he recently played two non-city

courses and found their conditions to be much lower in quality than the city courses refuting comments the city courses are not well maintained.

Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee

Superintendent Briski requested these minutes be tabled to a future meeting.

Long Range Planning Subcommittee

A motion was made by Wallner/Skidmore to accept the Minutes of June 2, 2010 Meeting of the Long Range Planning Subcommittee. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Olbrich Botanical Society

Superintendent Briski requested the By-Law revision be tabled to a future meeting.

Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Subcommittee

A motion was made by Skidmore/Wallner to accept the Minutes of the July 22, 2010 meeting of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Subcommittee. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

1. [20134](#)

Report of Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Committee from meeting of September 23, 2010 regarding Kitchen Use Policy

Steve Doniger, Community Services Manager, reviewed the policy on kitchen use at the Center. Staff worked with the Health Department regarding health issues and determined that the Center's manager would no longer carry a restaurant license under the proposed change in the policy. Currently the Center's manager is liable for what is brought in to the kitchen and how it is prepared and served. Under the proposed policy, the community has the opportunity to use the kitchen. They will need an insurance policy and have to obtain a temporary permit from the Health Department and they would then be responsible for the quality of the food that is prepared. The city's insurance standard is \$1 million. This new policy will provide the opportunity for the public to use the kitchen for small weddings and reunions who do not want to use a caterer. They will need to go through step-by-step instructions with Center staff on the use of the equipment in the kitchen and clean up procedures that will be required.

If Parks staff want to use the kitchen for any event that serves the public, they would also need to obtain a temporary restaurant license. Currently, only NESCO uses the kitchen for serving lunches and they use a vendor who holds a restaurant license. There are no non-profits using the facility to prepare food at this time. Additionally, most of the groups currently using the kitchen use it as a warming kitchen and not for initial food preparation.

Parks/WPCRC are not looking at this as a revenue stream but as a convenience for the community. It was researched because an alder questioned how the kitchen was being used.

A motion was made by Scarbrough/Chewning to approve the Report of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Committee regarding Kitchen Use Policy. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

President of the Park Commission.

President Barker noted that, when it was realized three years ago that the economy was in a down turn, a conscious decision was made to boost volunteerism and philanthropy and to build partnerships to help maintain our park system. It has provided huge benefits. This past month he was privileged to attend three events that demonstrated the power of that initiative. First, was the planting of 24 miniature fruit trees and berry bushes in Wingra Park that were provided by Edy's Corporation and the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation to the Dungeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association. Second, was the dedication of the Olive Jones playground that came about due to an outstanding partnership with that neighborhood association and third, was the renewed Elizabeth Link Peace Park that has seen a remarkable transformation. There are groups of people eating lunch there and the volunteers in the Visitor's Center are very helpful in answering questions about Madison.

Superintendent of Parks

Written Report of Supervisor's Activities

A motion was made by Chewning/Clausius to accept the Written Report of Supervisor's Activities. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Staff are working on their annual mowing of the low mow/managed meadows to control invasive species. Each year a review of those areas is conducted. Native plantings are being added to help reduce the invasives.

Informational Items

Superintendent Briski announced that Ray Shane, Golf Course Supervisor was the October Employee of the Month. Golf will turn a profit for the second year in a row having reversed a 12-year trend with the number of rounds played going up this year. He reported that the 2009-2010 Mall Concourse Special Charges had been sent out to property owners who receive services from our Mall crew. They are billed for one-third of the cost of those services. Elizabeth Link Peace Park opened on October 8, 2010 in time for Homecoming and is being well received by patrons. He distributed the Downtown Plan Overview/ Draft Recommendation pamphlet that will be discussed at the November Park Commission meeting. The operating and capital budgets for 2011 have been presented to the Mayor and Common Council and are being discussed by the Board of Estimates. The capital budget has more than tripled from previous years, in part because of funding for Central Park. Thus far, there have been no cuts in Parks operating budget. There are two positions that are vacant and will be held open until next spring before they are filled.

Finally, the newsletter contains exciting news. Last April, President Barker's name was submitted for the Wisconsin Park and Rec Association's (WPRA) highest award, the Fellowship Award, for his work on both the Central Park Committee and the Garver Reuse Committee, both of which he chaired. Those two committees took a tremendous amount of time, effort, patience and vision as he brought them to successful completion. In both cases, he wrote the final reports for those committees. He will receive this prestigious award at the WPRA annual conference in LaCrosse in early November. President Barker stated he was humbled by the honor but that this recognition wouldn't be possible without help. He felt it was a validation of the other members of the

committees as well as the hundreds of people from the community who voiced their opinions on these projects and they are the folks who deserve the award. He called Madison's process full contact democracy.

Additionally, the Parks Division won the silver status programming award from WPRA for Ride the Drive. This event, held twice this year, will be held again next year. Superintendent Briski and Steve Doniger will be presenting a program about the project at the state conference. They were also asked to present this program to the National Recreation Park Association in Minneapolis at the end of October.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS – 6:45 P.M.

**Diseased and Dead Elms and Oaks on Private Property, 2010 Requiring
Condemnation**

A motion was made by Skidmore/Clausius to recommend that the Public Hearing be postponed to the November Park Commission meeting beginning at 6:45 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.**

**Hearing on Appeal of Encroachment Violation in Manchester Park by Hao
Wang and Li Shaoyan**

Kay Rutledge, Planning & Development Manager, reported that the violation notice was sent to the property owners in August that their back fence encroaches up to 25 feet into Manchester Park. The property owners have appealed this violation.

Registered Speaker:

Li Shaoyan, homeowner in support of Appeal

Commissioners, while sympathetic with the current property owners, indicated that the encroachment was not acceptable. It is also not a case of adverse possession. They suggested the current owners might want to pursue a civil claim against the realtor, the prior owner of the property and, perhaps, the title company. It also isn't the city's responsibility to incur expenses in removing the fence. A brief discussion ensued regarding the possibility of waiting to remove the fence until the owner can resolve the issue with the realtor and previous seller. Superintendent Briski stated that waiting or the removal of the fence by Parks would set a precedent for other encroachments. It was noted that in Wisconsin the buyer has the opportunity to request a survey and that would have identified the encroachment, but that did not occur here. A suggestion was also made that perhaps the Parks Division should send a letter to the realtors in the area that when they are dealing with property adjacent to a park that they should do due diligence regarding property lines.

It was also noted that as Parks is dealing with the various encroachments that have been identified and brought forward to the Park Commission, several property owners have not appealed their notices and have removed the encroachments.

A motion was made by Scarbrough/Skidmore to reject the appeal of Hao Wang

and Li Shaoyan and to allow the Superintendent of Parks to determine the time line for the removal of the fence. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Vilas Park

Superintendent Briski stated that just as the issues at Olin-Turville Park were brought forward for the Park Commission's awareness, tonight South District Police will discuss their findings at Vilas Park. Police officer Dave Dexheimer and Captain Joe Balles presented the results of their investigation. They also met and presented this information to the Greenbush, Vilas and Regent Street Neighborhood Associations. Tonight's presentation is to make the Park Commission aware of the issues but is informational in nature.

Registered Speakers:

NAME

Captain Joe Balles	Provided information
Officer Dave Dexheimer	Provided information
Ald. Julia Kerr	Neutral
Carol Lobes	Supports Alcohol prohibition

Officer Dexheimer began by saying he believes that the Henry Vilas Zoo and Vilas Park are crown jewels in the park system and more than 700,000 people visit just the Zoo. He then expressed his concerns about Vilas Park, noting the problem is not particularly new but there have been changes in the pattern this past year. Dispatches to the park include the beach house, beach, shelter and the Zoo entrance. Police have been watching the activities for many years. There is a core group that comes daily for the consumption of alcohol. This year there has been a rise in the over consumption of alcohol and illegal drug use. The drug issue has surfaced because of the chronic daily use of alcohol that provides a market for drug sales and use. He added that these issues have been discussed, together with cultural issues, by the Park Commission's Ad Hoc Committee on Alcohol and Related Behaviors.

Police looked specifically at three areas in the park and found differences in the behavior of people within those three areas. Plot 2 revealed much evidence of drug use. If this plot was an apartment building, the owner would receive a drug nuisance letter. There was also lots of alcohol related trash along the lake edge.

It was acknowledged that it is a seasonal problem at the park that increases as summer goes on. Slides of the monthly call summary show alcohol and drug issues rise throughout the summer. In addition to the alcohol and drug related trash, there is evidence of the overuse of those areas as the grass is worn down and soil is compacted.

Police are not making a recommendation this evening but are looking for a wide array of suggestions based on the behavior of people to change the atmosphere in the park to resolve these issues and change that behavior. Alcohol is banned in 12 other parks in the South and Central Police Districts. The neighborhood associations strongly support banning alcohol in the park. Captain Balles added that police spent a great deal of time on plot 2 and many arrests were made in July. They have tried to enforce current laws but this is a

situation where you could arrest people (many of whom are the same individuals) all summer long.

One suggestion was the temporary closing of the west and east driveway entrances by the beach to prevent vehicular traffic. Also, the picnic tables could also be moved away from particular areas. A suggestion was also made to close the road by the bridge near the tennis courts.

Commissioners agreed that just arresting people isn't the solution and questioned whether closing off plot 2 would simply move people to either other locations in the park or to other parks. The entrenchment of alcohol has led to an explosion of drug use and excess alcohol in the park. They agreed that plot 2 should be closed so that it can be reseeded. Unfortunately this issue has been before the Park Commission many times, not just at Vilas but parks throughout the city.

Ald. Kerr stated that what the neighborhood is looking for is a range of solutions, both short and long term that will meaningfully effect change to the problems. What can be done between now and next April? In the short term, closing the road, banning alcohol or a banned persons list may be good solutions for Vilas. In the longer term, she requested that Parks staff work on a redesign of plots 1, 2 and 3 for inclusion in the 2012 budget.

Commissioners reported that the Long Range Planning Subcommittee is looking at parks where alcohol has been banned to determine whether the ban has worked. In the past as alcohol has been banned in a park, the problem has simply moved to the next park down the line. However, they agreed that it is important to address the problems in this park.

Superintendent Briski recommended that Parks staff continue to work with police, the alder and neighborhood association to develop an action plan by late winter/early spring. Among the recommendations may be the banning of individuals at the park. It was suggested that a Park Commissioner be part of this group.

Commissioners noted at one time there were individuals doing outreach on State Street and they would like to see that become a component for solutions at Vilas Park. They also stated that the collaboration between Parks staff, police and the alders resulted in a big win at Brittingham and that Olin-Turville is headed toward that same result.

Correspondence from Steve Books, Secretary of Veterans for Peace, Clarence Kailin Chapter 25, to appear before Park Commission to provide update on their displays.

Registered Speaker:
Steve Books Informational

Commissioners thanked the Veterans for Peace for their displays and noted veterans have earned the right to say what they want to about war and the displays remind us about the true cost of war.

Registered Speakers:

Don Heilman not speaking, opposed

Thomas Belk, opposed

Bill Cooly of Madison Nordic Ski Club, opposed to increase in daily ski fee

Brock Woods of Madison Nordic Ski Club, opposed to increase in daily ski fee

Steve Doniger, Community Services Manager, stated the Division was attempting to balance resource needs and what the market would bear as they reviewed fees for 2011. The fees presented are for 2011 while the fees for Olbrich are for 2012. The city and Dane County collaborate on permits for lake access, cross country skiing and dog parks. Many of the Mall events are set forth in city ordinances and would need to go to the Common Council for approval of any increase. Lake access fees can be raised only as high as the fees for state park entry per Wisconsin statutes. The contracts for the water ski shows are due to be renegotiated for next year. A suggestion was made to remove boulders from a three-yard wide area along the shores by canoe racks to facilitate entry into the water.

Following a brief discussion regarding cross country ski fees, a motion was made by Wallner/ Chewning to keep the daily cross country ski trail fee at the 2010 prices but to raise the annual trail passes as recommended. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.** A suggestion was also made about the possibility of scholarships to defray the daily cross country ski fee.

A motion was made by Wallner/Scarborough to approve the fees for 2011 as presented tonight with the exception referred to above. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D. [19055](#)

Adopting the *Greenbush-Vilas Neighborhood Housing Revitalization Strategy Report* as a supplement to the Greenbush Neighborhood Plan.

Jule Stroick of the Planning Department presented the Greenbush-Vilas Neighborhood Housing Plan that addresses housing possibilities in the Greenbush and Vilas neighborhoods in order to keep improving their neighborhoods. There are an array of options including affordable housing, co-housing, and owner occupied single family housing.

A primary asset for the area is Edward Klief Park. This park is viewed as the centerpiece for the neighborhoods and creates an opportunity to build and diversify housing around the park that would include multi-family residences. The Planning Department has been working with St. James Church to help identify areas for senior housing and townhouses. Discussion has included changing Bowen and St. James Courts to non-vehicular green streets. Additionally, Meriter Hospital recently unveiled a workforce housing program to enable employees to live closer to their work place by helping them to purchase homes in the neighborhood. These concepts will not happen overnight but look to the future as housing goes on the market.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Clausius to approve Resolution ID#19055 Adopting the *Greenbush-Vilas Neighborhood Housing Revitalization Strategy Report* as a supplement to the Greenbush Neighborhood Plan. **MOTION**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

This Resolution was Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the PLAN COMMISSION

- E. [20096](#) Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a ten (10) year Use Agreement with the Northwoods League, Inc. and the Madison Mallards LLC for nonexclusive use of Warner Park Stadium. (AD#12)

A motion was made by Clausius/Skidmore to approve Resolution ID# 20096 Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a ten (10) year Use Agreement with the Northwoods League, Inc. and the Madison Mallards LLC for nonexclusive use of Warner Park Stadium. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. This Resolution was RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER

- F. [20097](#) Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an Agreement to Undertake Improvements to Warner Park Stadium Between the City of Madison and Madison Mallards LLC. (AD#12)

A motion was made by Clausius/Skidmore to approve Resolution ID#20097 Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an Agreement to Undertake Improvements to Warner Park Stadium Between the City of Madison and Madison Mallards LLC. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. This Resolution was RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER

- G. [20104](#) To authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an agreement with Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association, Inc. for the planting and maintaining of an edible landscape to be located in Wingra Park. (AD 10)

**Registered Non-Speakers in Support
Percy Mather
Peter Nause**

Rutledge reported that the Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association was one of the winner's of a recent contest by the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation and sponsored by Edy's Corporation to plant edible landscape for the use and enjoyment of the general public. These 34 dwarf fruit trees and bushes were planted in Wingra Park. Recognition was also given to Edy Corporation's contribution to fund this donation. It was noted that the neighborhood association carries a \$1 million liability policy that would indemnify the city.

A motion was made by Scarbrough/Clausius to approve Resolution ID#20104 To authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an agreement with Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association, Inc. for the planting and maintaining of an edible landscape to be located in Wingra Park. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. This becomes the first approved edible landscape project in the city.

This Resolution was RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF

OFFICER

- H. [20031](#) Amending Sections 8.15(1)(a), (3) and (4) to clarify the requirements of this section, and amending Sec. 1.08(4) of the Madison General Ordinances to provide the Parks Division with enforcement authority over violations thereof.

A motion was made by Scarbrough/Leopold to approve Ordinance ID#20031 Amending Sections 8.15(1)(a), (3) and (4) to clarify the requirements of this section, and amending Sec. 1.08(4) of the Madison General Ordinances to provide the Parks Division with enforcement authority over violations thereof. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

This Ordinance was Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. [20159](#) Tenney Park Shelter Update

Tenney Park Shelter Update

Rutledge and Jim Whitney, City Architect provided an update on the Tenney shelter project. The restoration and repair of the pedestrian bridge over the lagoon is currently being done. There have been changes to the plan that was presented two years ago because there was more building than funds available in the budget. The building design was shrunk to fit within the available budget. The shelter will be constructed in 2011 and the parking lot in 2012. The reconfigured shelter building will make it more functional and includes men's-women's-family bathrooms, a concession area, a covered porch in the open air portion of the shelter with seating for 100 plus the interior meeting room with seating for 120, a small storage room, electrical room and garage space so that Park operations can store summer equipment and vehicles used to maintain ice in the winter.

The budget is a million fifty with the building itself about \$800,000. There are private donations of approximately \$350,000. If possible they would like to install timbers on the inside ceiling for more visual appeal.

The trail ring around the shelter connecting the pedestrian path to Johnson Street will be done at the time of the shelter construction. In the event a porous surface would be suitable, it would be utilized. Parks doesn't do anything in a lakeshore park that would hurt the lakes.

Superintendent Briski noted Parks is working collaboratively with the Tenney Lapham Neighborhood to complete the fundraising for this project. It will be bid this winter for spring 2011 construction. He acknowledged all of the work of Mary Lang Sollinger for this project. He also thanked Rutledge for her work on this project. Rutledge noted it was a team effort in the Planning Section.

- VIII. ADJOURNMENT - On motion of Wallner/Leopold the meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

