



City of Madison
Meeting Minutes - Final
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

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

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

6:30 PM

1625 Northport Dr. (WPCRC)

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Madison Board of Park Commissioners was held on Wednesday, May 10, 2006 at Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Drive. President Barker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Excused: Stephen A. Webster and Emanuel Scarbrough

Parks staff present: James Morgan, Elinor Riley, Donald Studesville, Si Widstrand, LaVonne LaFave

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 MacDonald/Skidmore to approve the Minutes of the April 19, 2006 regular meeting of the Park Commission. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Olbrich Botanical Society Minutes of March 14, 2006 Meeting

A motion was made by Chewning/Rosas to accept the Minutes of the March 14, 2006 meeting of the Olbrich Botanical Society. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously

1. Request of Olbrich Botanical Society to close all day on June 24, 2006 in preparation for Rhapsody in Bloom.

A motion was made by Chewning/Rosas to approve the closure of Olbrich Botanical Gardens all day on June 24, 2006 in preparation for Rhapsody in Bloom. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

B. Facilities, Programs and Fees Minutes of November 28, 2005 Meeting

A motion was made by Chewning/Rosas to accept the Minutes of the November 28, 2005 meeting of the Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

1 Action Report from Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee Meeting of May 1, 2006

A motion was made by Skidmore/Rosas to approve item a. in the Action Report from the Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee Meeting of May 1, 2006 to retain the 2006 boat mooring fees as originally adopted by the Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee and Park Commission. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Chewning to accept items b., c., and d of the Action Report from the Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee meeting of May 1, 2006 relative to the request of Mooring Field Lessees at the Marshall Park Mooring Field to have the Park Commission re-examine the mooring field policies as well as to investigate enlarging Mooring Field and that the challenge of the non-resident boat launch fee was not appropriate for the Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee's purview.

A question was asked on how to facilitate a study addressing the expansion of the mooring fields. It was stated that the DNR has indicated that the city is at its capacity for mooring fields. Superintendent Morgan added that there is another component to consider and that is that in the next twenty years it is estimated that Dane County will increase by 100,000 people. If the boat ramp numbers remain the same it will create many problems for neighborhoods that surround them. Dane County currently has the highest number of registered boaters per capita in the state. A joint planning effort with the state, the county and surrounding municipalities is needed if we are to determine whether there are additional opportunities for moorings and launch sites on Lakes Mendota and Monona. Because the county has jurisdiction over the lakes, it was recommended that discussions be initiated by the County Exec and that the city be a participant in that discussion.

A suggestion was made that the Long Range Planning Committee be the catalyst to investigate needs, obtain background information and identify possible solutions from the city Parks perspective. Superintendent Morgan interjected that Parks is not in a position to initiate these discussions.

C. Habitat Stewardship/Tree Board Minutes of April 7, 2005

A motion was made by Skidmore/Rosas to accept the Habitat Stewardship Committee/Tree Board Minutes of April 7, 2005 Meeting. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

1. Action Report from Habitat Stewardship Committee/Tree Board Meeting of April 26, 2006

A motion was made by Skidmore/Rosas to approve the Action Report from the Habitat Stewardship Committee/Tree Board Meeting of April 26, 2006 to request that an ordinance be enacted to discuss the implications of Gypsy Moth infestations, declare them a nuisance and recommend proper treatment so that the City Forester, or designee, may inspect all premises and places within the City to determine whether any public nuisance exists; and to approve the Tree Maintenance Priority Definitions for Request Work. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

V. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARK COMMISSION

A. Recommendation to increase size and composition of the Habitat Stewardship Committee

President Barker reported he attended the last meeting because he is alarmed by the Gypsy Moth problem in the city. Many of the large oaks on campus are covered with infestations and have been sprayed with soy oil. The City Forester can address the problem on city trees but hasn't been able to make any headway with trees on School District property and currently cannot do anything regarding infestations on private property. Additionally the Emerald Ash Borer is another problem on the horizon.

Our trees are one of the prime components that make our city and parks great. Expertise is needed in insect infestations, invasive species and disease pathogens that attack trees and woody plant material. Habitat Stewardship would also be in a position to proactively support environment stewardship, help with conservation parks, low mow areas and increasing biodiversity in the parks. He is suggesting that both the membership be increased and that the Committee meet more frequently. Superintendent Morgan reported that in 2001 the Park Commission adopted revised policies that reorganized the subcommittee structure from 19 committees to 5. The Tree Board was established by ordinance and there were also lots of committees that dealt with different aspects of stewardship, these were all grouped into the Habitat Stewardship Committee. The Commission can approve changes to the existing committee structure. Members supported the concept of Habitat Stewardship serving in an expanded role and adding members with expertise in these different areas. They suggested asking the current members of the Habitat Stewardship Committee to identify the resources and experts they would like added. Additionally, they have the ability to invite advisors to join the committee as non-voting members on special projects.

A motion was made by Chewing/MacDonald to expand the composition of the Habitat Stewardship Committee and that the Committee identify the types of resources they would like added. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS

A. Written Report of Supervisors' Activities

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

B. Updated Commission Roster

The updated Commission Roster was included in members' packets.

C. Informational

Superintendent Morgan announced that the Efficiency Committee of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Committee requested postponement to the June meeting. Also included in members' packets was the current list of Special Events occurring in parks and the Mall Concourse.

Superintendent Morgan invited members of the Park Commission to the pre-opening party for the Irwin and Robert Goodman Swimming Pool. This event is an opportunity to recognize the work of the community in raising \$4 million dollars as well as the work of Parks staff. There will be lots of kids in attendance from different areas of the city. Parks Foundation members, Pool Committee members, the Finance Committee and other city committees that were part of the process will all be in attendance. The pool construction is progressing well and the mechanicals will be started shortly. The landscaping is about 80% complete. The pool was plastered today and will be painted shortly. The company that provided the sunshades was so impressed, their sales rep called his boss to send a photographer to get pictures that could be used on the cover of their next catalog. Lifeguard training and hiring is well underway. Joe Daniels has done a great job with this construction project.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES

- A. [03360](#) Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a lease with Dennis Acker for four tracts of City-owned land comprising approximately 22 acres. 3rd Ald. Dist.
- A motion was made by Ald. Skidmore, seconded by Chewning, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by acclamation.**

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

Excused: Stephen A. Webster and Emanuel Scarbrough

- B. [03424](#) Authorizing the execution of a Permanent Limited Easement for radio tower guy wire anchors to Northwestern College Radio on a City-owned property located at 7022 Raymond Road. 1st Ald. Dist.
- A motion was made by Ald. Skidmore, seconded by MacDonald, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by acclamation.**

- C. Request from Attorney Robert Stroud regarding Olin House

A motion was made by Rosas/Skidmore to refer the request from Attorney Robert Stroud regarding Olin House to a future meeting. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

- D. Request from Beth Ramos to host a Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network Walk on August 19, 2006 at Elver Park.

Registered Speaker: Beth Ramos in support

A motion was made by MacDonald/Rosas to approve the request from Beth Ramos to host a Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network Walk on August 19, 2006 at Elver Park based upon sponsor's compliance with staff recommendations. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

- E. Request from Rhythms & Booms to allow the Carnival to run on Friday night, to allow the reopening of the Oldies Stage/Beer Garden following the fireworks until 11:30 p.m. and to allow Warner Park to remain open until midnight on that Saturday.

A motion was made by Rosas/Skidmore to allow the r Request from Rhythm & Booms to allow the Carnival to run on Friday night, to allow the reopening of the Oldies Stage/Beer Garden following the fireworks until 11:30 p.m. and to allow Warner Park to remain open until midnight on that Saturday. MOTION CARRIED unanimously. Superintendent Morgan stated the planning staff team, including police, approves of the request. It is a risky event in terms of large numbers of people but it has been very well managed and police are willing to give it a try.

- F. Request of Hanah Jon Taylor, Director of Madison Center for Creative and Cultural Arts to host the Madison 150 Sunday Serenades in various parks on Sundays in June and July as outlined in his proposal.

**Registered Speakers in support: Hanah Jon Taylor, Dick Wagner
Michael Bashford - not speaking but registering in support**

A motion was made by Chewning/Skidmore to approve the request of Hanah Jon Taylor, Director of Madison Center for Creative and Cultural Arts to host the Madison 150 Sunday Serenades in various parks on Sundays in June and July as outlined in his proposal based upon sponsor's compliance with staff recommendations. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Report on Additional Mooring Spaces

A motion was made by Chewning/MacDonald that the Long Range Planning Committee of the Park Commission examine the question of how to promote a collaborative examination of mooring needs and assets that are available in Dane County lakes. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Superintendent Morgan reported that typically with multi-jurisdictional questions funds are included in the budget process of those agencies to allow the hiring of an outside consultant to steer this process through all appropriate governmental bodies. Parks staff can work with other agencies to determine what is appropriate. MacDonald noted that recommendations should come through the Park Commission because the Long Range Planning Committee cannot make binding agreements.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Grandview Commons Park Master Plan

Widstrand presented the Master Plan Map for this 16 to 18 acre area park. He noted that revisions were made to the Master Plan to accommodate neighborhood requests. This is a large park serving a square mile of solid residences containing small single-family lots that will provide many users of this park. This park is east of the Beltline between Cottage Grove Road and Milwaukee Street. He described a large open area in the park that has been designed by grading and configuration to provide multiple ways the athletic fields

can be laid out. As needs change, the large open space can be adapted to community gardens and other athletics. Neighbors were originally concerned about three soccer fields and didn't want them all in use at the same time. It was explained that it is Parks intent to alternate them so they are not overused. The neighbors also wanted more topography in the park and some small rises were included in the playground area, the sledding hill and proposed shelter area. The sledding hill has an elevation of approximately 15 feet. A shelter facility will also be constructed. Parking is available on the street. The neighbors are interested in doing fundraising to promote the development of the park. Prairie areas are located in various portions and the low areas will be developed as infiltration areas so the water will seep into the ground instead of draining into the street. Soil studies have not yet been conducted in the infiltration areas but plants with five-foot deep root systems will help break up the soil.

B. Hoyt Park Master Plan Update

Widstrand presented the Hoyt Park Master Plan update that had been prepared by the Friends of Hoyt Park. He believed the document was self-explanatory. He provided feedback to the Friends group as they worked on the update.

Commission members found the Master Plan extraordinarily impressive and asked if there was any way to help other groups do this for their parks, including some type of workshop for neighborhood representatives. Parks staff interjected that at last year's Neighborhood Roundtable one of the breakout sessions was led by the Friends of Hoyt Park.

Widstrand mentioned that his only concern was that friends groups could get too focused on "their" park instead of parks in the entire City of Madison, although he does not have that concern with the Friends of Hoyt Park. He then mentioned the difficulty in having a neighborhood group begin the process from scratch with no guidance or assistance. The Master Plan this evening is an update of a prior plan that was drafted by the Parks Division. If neighbors or neighborhood associations can form a Parks Committee to work with Parks staff to create a Master Plan, the process works much better.

Rosas also echoed that concern stating he has constituents who view some of the parks in his district as "their" parks and he doesn't want to foster the feeling with particular groups that parks belong only to a certain area. The parks are open to all who want to use them.

Superintendent Morgan added that it would be wonderful to see the Friends of Hoyt Park's spirit captured and used in other parks. The group raises a significant amount of money to pay for a ranger in their park each summer. They have installed interpretative signs on the trails and done a significant amount of restoration work and clearing out of invasive species. The Friends group is a model for other groups because they don't claim ownership of the park at any level. Commissioners believe that public financial support for parks will continue to diminish and support by neighborhoods will be critical to maintain parks. Hoyt is a historic park and the shelter is one of the last CCC built shelters.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Chewning to approve the Historic Hoyt Park 2006 Master Plan update as presented. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

C. 2007 Preliminary Capital Budget

Widstrand discussed the preliminary capital budget for 2007. The Mayor has not announced his target for the 2007 capital budget. Parks staff has started to put together its 5-year capital budget list beginning with last year's 2007 projected budget and made adjustments and additions. He then proceeded to highlight some of the line items. The Cherokee Marsh boardwalk replacement will require a full discussion and has been controversial. The 15-foot rotary mower under general maintenance will probably be deleted because we won't have staff to operate it. Staffing is beginning to impact our equipment purchases and without adding field staff there won't be operators for equipment. The Goodman Maintenance Facility is out for bids and will probably be impacted by the increase in materials prices that have risen recently. It may be necessary to request additional money for next year. The Breese Stevens project is expected to go out for bids this fall. It is hope the first phase of repair to the grandstand structure will solve some of the basic problems. There is a line item for the purchase of park meadows and plantings to improve areas. There is a line item for the annual street tree replacement that had been in the operating budget but is more appropriate in the capital budget. There are also ten lines of specific park projects that include bridgework, shoreline and terrace repairs, playground surfacing and improvements and shelter work. The bridges will help connect parts of the walking and biking trails throughout the city.

Line 60 addresses the use of development fees. These funds come in from development all over the city and are sometimes difficult to manage. Parks Planning needs a reasonable process for planning in those areas and is proposing that they identify two fee districts per year and concentrate on improvements in those districts while also using the money that is close to the five-year limit. (Development fees cannot be kept for longer than 5-years before it is used.) They will update all the park master plans in the district and incorporate requests from alders and neighbors into the five-year capital budget plan to begin implementation. Planning staff cannot keep up with neighborhood and alder requests throughout the city for Master Plans for parks in their neighborhoods. With this system, staff will be able to let groups know approximately when the work will be done in their district.

A brief discussion regarding a supplemental line item in the 2008 budget for the skate park in Central Park was discussed. It was requested this item be removed. The expectation and promise had always been that this would be a privately funded park. The Parks Division should not voluntarily put money into its capital or operating budgets for this private park. It was noted that fundraising for all the features in that proposed park will be difficult and Urban Open Space has made commitments to Parks in the past regarding fundraising and maintenance for it.

The Phase III paving for Reindahl Park was mentioned. The back parking lot near the community gardens will be paved in 2006. The Community Action Coalition polled the neighbors and there was balanced split regarding the expansion of the gardens with some people being very territorial. The third alternative is to slightly expand the total area and reduce the size of the individual plot to allow more gardeners.

The 2010 budget proposal lists a swimming pool at Reindahl Park. The location would be south of the shelter near the gardens that incorporates the historic shed into the pool design.

Superintendent Morgan reported that the Mayor in his State of City Address included the Warner Park pool in his future capital plans. Fundraising for this pool has already started. Currently there is enough money for the master planning process. A named lead donor will be needed in order to get the project moving. There are also many questions to be answered, including indoor vs. outdoor, and recreational vs. 50 meter.

Discussion turned to replacing the Clubhouse at Odana Golf Course. This aging facility was built in the late 1950s and is not accessible. It is not a structure that can be renovated. There are several very large debt service payments that will be paid off in the next two years. The issue is how much of this should be paid out of parks and how much out of the general fund. The building is used for cross-country skiing in the winter and as a polling location by the city.

Clarification was requested regarding the parking lots at Olbrich shown in the 2008 budget. The revised parking south of the railroad is based on the adopted Master Plan that as the Botanical Garden complex expanded the main entryway would be moved from Atwood Avenue to the middle of the parking lot. As the Gardens expand the current entry is becoming increasingly congested. The Master Plan provides for an additional entryway. The current entry and parking is now 20+ years old and needs to be rebuilt and part of that process would involve a different reconfiguration that would reduce slightly the number of spaces. The Master Plan also includes an expansion of the current building toward the north and would include a new educational wing, office expansion and possible wedding facility.

An explanation of the Vilas Park bridges, abutments and lagoons was presented. The abutments are settling and pulling away from the bridges. The current configuration of the bridge and traffic lane slow vehicles because of the jog in the traffic lane up to the bridge. Widstrand stated that they are thinking of bringing Edgewood Avenue into a "T" where people would have to stop before proceeding across the bridge. The quality of the lagoons is deteriorating with erosion along the edges as well as muskrat holes in the banks. These items are listed in the budgets to remind people at some point something will need to be done.

X. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Skidmore/MacDonald the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.