



# City of Madison

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

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Wednesday, March 10, 2010

6:30 PM 625 Northport Dr. # (Warner Park Community Recreation Center)

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The regular meeting of the Madison Board of Park Commissioners was held on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Avenue. President Barker called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

### I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 7 -

Joseph R. Clausius; Paul E. Skidmore; William W. Barker; David L. Wallner; Betty Chewning; Emanuel Scarbrough and Janet Parker

Parks staff present: Superintendent Kevin Briski, Steve Doniger, Eric Knepp, Kay Rutledge, Jim Weinstock, LaVonne LaFave and Bill Christoph, Pete Polodna, Tom Skaife and Tom Maglio.

City Staff Present: Ray Harmon

Alders Present: Ald. Satya Rhodes-Conway

### II. PARKS EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

Before announcing the March employees of the month, Superintendent Briski stated that the winner of the first Parks Volunteer of the Year was not present to receive his award at the Volunteer Recognition event on March 1. He is here this evening and Parks would like to present him with his award. Joe Bonardi has volunteered countless hours at Period Gardens over the past years, many times using money from his own pocket to create the beautiful gardens that are there. This had been a park where undesirable activities were occurring and he has turned the park around. It has become a beloved neighborhood icon and an important part of wedding ceremony pictures for Gates of Heaven participants. It is with great pleasure that this plaque commemorating his volunteerism at Period Gardens is presented to Joe Bonardi.

#### PARKS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Superintendent Briski announced that the March employees of the month are Bill Christoph and Pete Polodna who were nominated by their supervisor for the myriad of projects that they handle on a daily/weekly basis. They come in and take care of problems ranging from painting to structural repairs in all of the city parks facilities. They are very well thought of by their supervisor and do the many things behind the scenes that are taken for granted. Tom Skaife, their supervisor, added that Bill and Pete are also responsible for making the beautiful table used for Park Commission meetings.

A motion was made by Scarbrough/Skidmore to take items VI. M., N., O. and L out of order following the Parks Employees of the month. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- M. Request to establish two new Eastside Dog Exercise Areas.

Steve Doniger, Community Services Manager, reported the Eastside Dog Coalition came to Parks with a proposal in September of 2008 to create additional off leash dog exercise areas on the east side of Madison. Public meetings were held to determine the level of support and possible park locations. A survey was sent to residents surrounding the top three locations. Following the tabulation of the survey, the results were shared with the alders. Demetral Park and McCormick Greenspace are being proposed as new off leash exercise areas. Parks has worked with Engineering to ensure that all DNR requirements are met and approval has been received from them. If the sites are approved by the Park Commission and Common Council, staff will begin working on the design components and obtain bids on costs for fencing and other amenities. It is hoped the areas will be on line by the end of summer. They would have a vestibule area for ingress/egress.

Maps showing the placement of the dog exercise areas within those two proposed locations were distributed. The Demetral location is a closed landfill and the proposed area is away from Engineering's landfill monitoring facilities. McCormick is located in a greenway that will also contain a community garden in adjoining space. The new dog exercise areas are small and will allow people to walk to them.

**Registered Speakers:**

Karen Matteoni - oppose

Paddy O'Rourke on behalf of Sarah Kate Johnson - support

Suzanne Sarah Forsberg – not speaking in support

Jeanne Koranda – support

Judy Cline – support

Barb Gilligan – support

Cynthia Burnson – support

Alder Satya Rhodes-Conway - support

A motion was made by Skidmore/Scarbrough/Wallner to approve the two new off leash dog exercise areas at Demetral Park and McCormick Greenspace.

Commissioners were generally in favor of more dog parks, both on and off leash. They think staff does a good job with the dog parks and hope there can be more brought on line. It is the Park Commission's job to make sure that the parks in Madison add to the quality of life for all of Madison's citizens. They heard the concerns mentioned this evening and believe those concerns will be addressed. There are not enough dog parks and the ones we have are overcrowded, hopefully these additions will help ease that situation. They are concerned about runoff and suggest that Parks staff work on resolving this issue. Rutledge will work with Engineering to ensure that the designs take this potential issue into consideration in relation to the site topography. Superintendent Briski added that there are two Rangers that will be hired

shortly who will help with enforcement issues.

President Barker noted that he has been impressed with the Eastside Dog Coalition and is also appreciative of Alder and staff support. This group took ownership of the project and has worked collaboratively with Parks staff, resulting in this positive outcome.

The motion was restated: A motion was made by Skidmore/Scarborough/Wallner to approve the two new off leash dog exercise areas at Demetral Park and McCormick Greenspace. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

N. Warner Park Parking Lot

Landscape Architect Tom Maglio presented information and maps regarding this redesign. This is a fairly large engineering project that just happens to be in a park. Engineering and Traffic Engineering staff have been involved with Parks providing the design criteria. There have been many issues with the current parking lot and roadway. Every aisle conflicts with the main aisle/roadway thru the park. Parks staff preferred to start with a clean slate and not just repave the current lot. In addition, the comments that are contained in the Northside Plan prepared by the Planning Department were reviewed and incorporated into this redesign.

Presently there are 10.5 acres of asphalt with 1,177 stalls and the redesign has 9.6 acres with 1,218 stalls. Unfortunately the poplar trees in the aisles will be lost but there will be a net gain of 80 to 90 trees. Parks must follow the same requirements as contractors for parking lot design. The biggest difference is that the redesign also incorporates trees and a sidewalk along the 28 foot wide main drive to create a more residential ambiance. Parks Planning will work with our Forestry section to determine appropriate tree species.

Engineering is working on the storm water portion of the project because part of the parking lot is in a flood plain. Because of the high water table and heavy truck traffic the use of permeable pavement may not be an option. There may be a section of the redesign that could support the use of porous concrete as a test area. It was also noted that the existing asphalt will be ground up and used to raise the base for the new asphalt. No debris will be hauled to the landfill, it will be recycled.

Ald. Rhodes-Conway expressed enthusiasm for the redesign and the fact that there will be better pedestrian access throughout the park. She also asked that a perimeter pathway around Warner Park for walking and jogging be completed. There is a comprehensive beautification effort underway on the Northside. The possibility of an iconic public art piece in the park was also mentioned.

Superintendent Briski recognized Tom Maglio for his extensive work on this project.

A recess was called at 8:04 p.m. The Board of Park Commissioners returned to session at 8:13 p.m. with all Commission members in attendance.

- O. [17683](#) Creating Sec. 8.18(7) and renumbering current Sec. 8.18(7) of the Madison General Ordinances to establish 3-hour parking in Olin-Turville Park.

Superintendent Briski reported that Parks has been working with the Madison Police Department with regard to activities in Olin-Turville Park, both legal and otherwise. Russ Hefty, Parks Conservation Supervisor, has been in charge of working with a contractor to clear the underbrush in the conservation area and that project is on schedule and under budget. In the meantime Ald. Bruer has requested and submitted an Ordinance amendment to reduce the parking limit to 3-hours in the south/lower lot, the one closest to John Nolen Drive. This request is consistent with some other park properties. He also noted that the Long Range Planning Subcommittee has been studying the parking in parks parking lot issue to develop an overall parking policy throughout parks.

Registered Speaker:  
Sgt. Jim Dexheimer - supports

Sgt. Dexheimer spoke about the significant number of vehicles, between 40 and 60, that are parked in that lot for 9 hours a day during the week. The parked cars in that lower lot by the railroad tracks cover the illicit activity and the rash of cruising that occurs over the noon hours. People have reported they feel stalked and threatened by these activities. The vehicles give the appearance that this is a very busy park but the cars actually belong to commuters. Police are not certain how many commuters park there and then bike to work but there are typically about 6 to 8 vehicles with bike racks. People also park there and catch a Metro bus.

Limiting the time for parking would be a small step toward resolving the problems in the park. The three hour limit could be either for the Monday thru Friday work week to allow people to park for a longer period of time on week-ends or could be for the full week.

He also indicated that police are interested in experimenting with the traffic flow to stem the driving and looping through the park looking for potential partners for two months early this spring before the boating season starts. Another possibility would be to install a gate at the bottom of the hill that would only be opened for shelter reservations. The frontage road would still be open for bikers and runners.

The Park Commission had previously discussed selling parking passes for that lot to allow people to park and bike or park and bus. Wallner added that the Long Range Planning Subcommittee is reviewing the ordinance on parking in city parks. They hope to suggest options for the lots. Many contractors park in different lots during the week and a 3-hour limit would move them to different areas or to parking on the street. If park and ride lots were created they could produce income for the Division. Enforcement would be provided by the Parks Rangers.

The lot at Olin is not a designated park and ride lot. A motion was made by Skidmore/Wallner to approve Ordinance ID#17683 Creating Sec. 8.18(7) and renumbering current Sec. 8.18(7) of the Madison General Ordinances to establish 3-hour parking in Olin-Turville Park on Monday through Friday from

**6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. An amendment was offered by Scarbrough/Parker that individuals with bikes could be issued a permit to park there for the day. Following a brief discussion both the original motion and amendment were withdrawn**

**There are two issues here. One is the creation of a park and ride lot or allowing the lot to continue to be used as a de facto lot and the second issue is dealing with the illicit activity occurring at the back of the lot and in the park.**

**A motion was made by Wallner/Chewning to refer this issue to the April meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Commissioners would like Ald. Bruer present to discuss his proposed Ordinance.**

- L. Correspondence from Nick Schweitzer and Jim Lattis of U.W. Space Place to request approval for a temporary installation along the bike path in Law Park.

**Registered Speaker:  
Nick Schweitzer - supports**

**A motion was made by Skidmore/Chewning to approve the request of Nick Schweitzer and Jim Lattis of UW Space Place for a temporary installation along the bike path in Law Park. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Returning to the agenda,**

### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A motion was made by Wallner/Scarbrough to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 10, 2010 of the Park Commission. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**There were no members of the public who wished to comment on items not on the Agenda.**

### **V. REPORTS**

#### **A. Oral Report from March 9, 2010 meeting of the Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee**

**Commissioner Parker thanked Parks staff for their hard work on the edible landscape/mini-orchards project forward. Unfortunately she had to leave their meeting early and the fact that the issue was extremely time sensitive did not get relayed to the Subcommittee. Habitat Stewardship referred the matter to their April meeting due to concerns about invasive species and the short amount of time they had to review the materials.**

There is an article in USA Today about cities, including Madison, with public orchards. She has received word that the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation has awarded grants to two groups who want to plant orchards in Wingra and Marlborough Parks. The grants come in the form of trees and training on the appropriate care and management of them.

A motion was made by Parker/Skidmore to approve the two edible landscapes/mini-orchards at Wingra and Marlborough Parks so the neighborhood groups qualify for the grants from Fruit Tree Planting Foundation.

Rutledge reported that guidelines on where these types of installations would be placed in our parks as well as fruiting species were presented to the Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee last evening. One issue the subcommittee raised was habitat; whether existing habitat would be displaced or would the new habitat created by the fruit and nut plantings actually be beneficial. Parks staff will review requests based on the guidelines. Specific locations within parks were not presented because of the vast number of parks. She felt Marlborough was an appropriate site because it already contains a community garden but they need to see a harvest plan before final approval can be given. At Wingra, it may be possible that they could plant some trees but 12 may be too many in that park. Staff believe the area the group is interested in at Wingra may not be appropriate and they would like to propose an alternate location, but they have not yet had that discussion regarding placement. Staff is still working out the details and needs to develop criteria that addresses planting, harvesting and ongoing maintenance. Alders have asked that staff reach out to the community and place these orchards in locations where people need to be fed so that everyone can pick the fruit.

Parker added that she received a phone call today regarding the Foundation grants. She wondered why the approval of species came up at Habitat Stewardship because it is the first time they would be reviewing species in parks and cautioned that the Commission not lose sight of the national grants.

The Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee is in favor of a lease agreement similar to the one used for Community Gardens. Staff has consulted with the city attorney, real estate section and risk manager regarding conditions because the trees are more permanent than a garden and will need ongoing maintenance. President Barker expressed concern about the requirement of a lease and \$200 payment in order to plant 25 blueberry bushes, etc. and asked whether it could be waived. The Madison Fruits and Nuts group is proposing to follow the format used by the Margaret Pohle Flower Gardens. Neighborhood volunteers would be trained to tend to the fruit and nut trees and would then make a commitment to care for them.

The motion was restated. A motion was made by Parker/Skidmore to approve the two edible landscapes/mini-orchards at Wingra and Marlborough Parks so the neighborhood groups qualify for the grants from Fruit Tree Planting Foundation, subject to site approval by staff. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**B. Oral Report from February 8, 2010 meeting of the Long Range Planning Subcommittee**

At the February 8, 2010 meeting of Long Range Planning Subcommittee a Proclamation honoring Donald Last for his work on the Subcommittee was presented. The Park Commission indicated they also wanted to acknowledge Don's work and asked to be included in the Proclamation. A motion was made by Wallner/Skidmore to approve the Proclamation for Donald Last and to add their good wishes to it. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**C. Olbrich Botanical Society**

Request to close all day on June 20, 2009 in preparation for Rhapsody in Bloom.

A motion was made by Parker/Wallner to approve the request of Olbrich Botanical Society to close all day on June 20, 2009 in preparation for Rhapsody in Bloom. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**D. President of the Park Commission**

President Barker noted that he recently attended two great volunteer events, one for Olbrich volunteers and the second for parks volunteers. The Parks volunteer event was a quality event in which awards for volunteers and sponsors were presented. It is always gratifying to see all of the people who attend these events.

**E. Superintendent of Parks**

**Written Report**

A motion was made by Skidmore/Scarborough to accept the written report of Supervisor's Activities. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

It was noted that the Mallards submitted a written request to reduce the capacity in the stadium from 7500 to 6750 that has been approved by the alders and Parks.

**Informational Items**

The Madison Parks Newsletter will be sent via e-mail in about a week. Thank you notes have been sent to all of the sponsors for the Parks Volunteer Recognition event last week. It turned into a great fundraising opportunity for the coming year for the Madison Parks Foundation.

Last month there was a question about concession revenues and those numbers are provided tonight as part of the wrap up on winter activities. Concession revenue is up, in part due to the contract approved last year for Wisconsin Youth to run the concessions at Elver Park.

A new position has been approved for the Parks Division for an additional

Landscape Architect. The planning section has been understaffed and deals with well over 80 projects a year. This position will allow more strategic planning to occur and will be funded with non-general fund proceeds.

A letter was submitted to the Parks Division following the February meeting regarding fireworks at Mallards games. He did speak with both the neighborhood association and the alder concerning it.

A group discount is now available with membership in NRPA that is open to community board. The dues come out of our park fund and was nominal. Cards were distributed to the Commission members to complete so they can obtain future mailings of information.

**VI. CORRESPONDENCE, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES**

- A. [17221](#) Authorizing the Common Council to accept ownership from Spring Harbor Neighborhood Association of rain garden and turtle-shaped garden plantings, bench and commemorative plaque to be located in the intersection of Spring Court and Lake Mendota Drive.

**This Resolution was RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER**

- B. [17337](#) Accepting Fence Easements and authorizing Maintenance Agreements from the owners of Lots 232 thru 237, First Addition to the Meadowlands across properties located at Littlemore Court.

**This Resolution was RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER**

- C. [17413](#) Authorizing a contract between the City and the Madison Metropolitan School District for the provision of programming by Madison School and Community Recreation at Warner Park Community and Recreation Center for 2010. (District 12)

**This Resolution was RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER  
motion was made by Skidmore/Clausius to approve MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- D. [17568](#) Accepting the Final Report of the Central Park Design and Implementation Task Force as a supplement to the City of Madison Comprehensive Plan to guide future Park development options; and to extend the work of the Central Park Design and Implementation Task Force to support additional Phase 1 planning and implementation efforts through 2010; and authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Center for Resilient Cities, Inc., and Central Park Skate, LLC, to provide for the terms of City operation of lands presently owned by those organizations and creation of a non-profit organization to support the future Central Park.



**motion was made by Scarbrough/Parker to refer MOTION CARRIED  
UNANIMOUSLY**

**This Resolution was Refer to the BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS, due  
back on 4/14/2010**

- E. [17582](#) To authorize Mayor and City Clerk to enter into a three (3) year agreement on behalf of the City with Madison Area Radio Control Society (MARCS) for use of Kettle Field, City parkland. (AD 16)

**A motion was made by Skidmore/Clausius to approve MOTION CARRIED  
UNANIMOUSLY**

**This Resolution was Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval**

- F. [17586](#) To authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into a one (1) year Agreement between the City of Madison and D. L. Anderson Company beginning on April 15, 2010 and ending on October 31, 2010 for the use of docking facilities to provide lake access at Marshall, Olbrich, Olin and Warner Parks.

**A motion was made by Skidmore/Clausius to approve MOTION CARRIED  
UNANIMOUSLY**

**This Resolution was Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to  
the BOARD OF ESTIMATES, due back on 3/8/2010**

- G. [17588](#) To authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into a one (1) year Agreement between the City of Madison and Deano Dock and Lift, LLC. beginning April 15, 2010 and ending on October 31, 2010 for the use of docking facilities to provide lake access at Marshall, Warner and Olin Parks.

**A motion was made by Skidmore/Clausius to approve MOTION CARRIED  
UNANIMOUSLY**

**This Resolution was Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to  
the BOARD OF ESTIMATES, due back on 3/8/2010**

- H. [17594](#) To authorize the City to enter into a one (1) year agreement with the possibility of a two additional, one-year renewal terms with Madison Metropolitan School District for the non-exclusive use of city park land for adult baseball and softball programs by the Madison School Community Recreation. (Various AD's)

**A motion was made by Skidmore/Clausius to approve MOTION CARRIED  
UNANIMOUSLY**

**This Resolution was Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to  
the BOARD OF ESTIMATES, due back on 3/8/2010**

- I. [17600](#) To Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign and execute an agreement with Robert Krebs d/b/a The Madison Sailing Center from April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011. (AD 18)

**A motion was made by Skidmore/Clausius to approve MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**This Resolution was Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES, due back on 3/8/2010**

J. [17602](#)

To authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an Agreement between the City of Madison and Wingra Canoe and Sailing Center, Inc. covering boat livery and concession operations utilizing certain lands and buildings at Vilas Park and Wingra Park for a one year period with the possibility of two additional one-year renewals. (ADs 10 & 13)

**A motion was made by Skidmore/Clausius to approve MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**This Resolution was Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES, due back on 3/8/2010**

K. [17658](#)

To extend the closing hours at Olbrich Botanical Gardens to 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 19, 2010 for the 23rd annual Rhapsody in Bloom benefit dinner and dance.

**This Resolution was RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER**

**A motion was made by Skidmore/Clausius to approve MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## VII. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Wallner/Clausius the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.