



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Approved BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

6:30 PM

Via Virtual Meeting

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was held via Virtual Meeting at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, May 13, 2020. President Leopold called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Leopold recognized former Assistant Superintendent Kay Rutledge who has recently retired. Rutledge started in 2009 as Parks Planning & Development Manager and was promoted to Parks Assistant Superintendent in 2014.

Members Present: Emily Gnam; Moira Harrington; Madelyn Leopold; Ald. Paul Skidmore; and Venus Washington.

Members Excused: Ald. Zachary Henak and Al Martin.

Alders Present: Ald. Syed Abbas

Parks Staff Present: Eric Knepp; Lisa Laschinger; Joanne Austin; Josh Schmitt; and Ann Shea.

City Staff Present: Dan McAuliff and Bill Fruhling, City Planning.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Skidmore, seconded by Washington to Approve the Minutes of the March 11, 2020 regular Board of Park Commissioners meeting and the March 11, 2020 Joint Meeting with the Madison Public Library Board. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Al Martin and Ald. Zachary Henak arrived at 6:34 PM and 6:35 PM respectively.

Members Present: 7 – Emily Gnam; Moira Harrington; Ald. Zachary Henak; Madelyn Leopold; Al Martin; Ald. Paul Skidmore; and Venus Washington.

Registered speaker Paul Noeldner, Volunteer Coordinator of Madison FUN, Friends of Urban Nature, spoke to thank the Parks Division for everything they do and about the groups he participates in.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

60303 Election of Board of Park Commissioners President

Motion made by Harrington, seconded by Washington, to elect Emily Gnam as President to the Board of Park Commissioners for a two-year term. Motion passed by voice vote/other

60304 Election of Board of Park Commissioners Vice President

Motion made by Washington, seconded by Martin, to elect Moira Harrington as Vice President to the Board of Park Commissioners for a two-year term. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

REPORTS**President of the Park Commission**

President Emily Gnam formally thanked Madelyn Leopold for her years of leadership on the Board of Park Commissioners. She also voiced her appreciation for Parks Division staff and their work in keeping city parks open and safe during the pandemic, as well as all City staff who have made virtual meetings possible. Gnam also thanked Superintendent Eric Knepp and other staff who helped with the April election.

60261 Park Commission President's Resident Appointments to Subcommittee of the Board of Park Commissioners.

Motion made by Martin, seconded by Harrington to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO CONFIRM UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULES 2.04, 2.05, 2.24, & 2.25.** Motion passed by voice vote/other.

Superintendent of Parks

Superintendent Eric Knepp reported that the Parks Division is focusing on re-opening amenities. He anticipates several sports facilities will soon be opened under guidelines created in conjunction with Public Health. Some sports facilities will be more difficult to open due to inherent challenges with social distancing.

Limited staffing will be a challenge moving forward as the City is in a hiring freeze. The parks system will be managed to maximize benefits with the resources available. The Warner Park Community Recreation Center is preparing to convert back to its normal use once an alternative shelter site is located. The recent order allowing camps on specified public lands is in alignment with the long-standing philosophy of Parks. There have been no notable issues and the behavior policy remains in effect. Redeployed Parking Enforcement staff have been extremely helpful in monitoring the parks. There have been very few problems over the last month with large gatherings. Events of 250+ this summer are unlikely to be able to occur.

60405 May 2020 Parks Division Superintendent's Report

Motion made by Martin, seconded by Henak, to Accept the Report. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion made by Martin, seconded by Leopold, to Approve by Consent Agenda No. 12, Legislative File No. 60157; No. 13, Legislative File No. 60156; No. 14, Legislative File No. 60155; and No. 15, Legislative File No. 59940. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

60157

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, 2020.

Motion made by Martin, seconded by Leopold, to Approve. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

60156

Proclaiming the week of April 26 through May 2, 2020 as Arbor Week in the City of Madison.

Motion made by Martin, seconded by Leopold, to Approve. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

60155

Proclaiming Sunday, June 28, 2020 as World Migratory Bird Day in the City of Madison.

Motion made by Martin, seconded by Leopold, to Approve. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

59940

Authorizing the execution of a lease with Historic Blooming Grove Historical Society, Inc. for the purpose of maintaining and preserving the present historical value of the Dean House located at 4718 Monona Drive on a portion of the Monona Golf Course property. (15th AD)

Motion made by Martin, seconded by Leopold, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

60072

Request from the Friends of Goodman Waves for the use of Goodman Park and Goodman Pool for the All City Dive Meet on July 27-28, 2020, from 8 am-7 pm.

Recreation Services Coordinator Josh Schmitt stated that the participants of Goodman Waves work very hard and the Friends of Goodman Waves are very supportive.

Registered speaker Cindy Schlicte of Friends of Goodman Waves spoke in support.

Registrant Marie Trest was in support.

Registrant Tom Lynch was in support.

Registrant Rayshel was in support.

Registrant Cynthia V. Hawkinson-McEahern was in support.

Registrant Mark Kowing was in support.

Registrant Jeff Huebner was in support.

Registrant William Blank of Friends of Goodman Waves was in support.

Motion made by Harrington, seconded by Martin, to Approve the request. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

[60250](#)

Authorizing the Park Superintendent and the Facilities, Programs and Fees Subcommittee to Approve Certain Park Event Permits - Temporary Change Due to COVID Restrictions on Meetings

Knepp explained that the authority would return to the Facilities, Programs and Fees Subcommittee when it can reconvene. Leopold confirmed that this will only be the process during COVID-19.

Motion made by Martin, seconded by Leopold, to Approve. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

[59274](#)

Breese Stevens Field informational reports regarding the 2020 Fan Access Plan and Neighborhood Impact Plan.

Registered Speaker Vern Stenman of Big Top Events spoke in support.

Motion made by Martin, seconded by Leopold, to Accept the Report. Motion made by voice vote/other.

[60410](#)

Request from Big Top Events for a pyrotechnic display at Breese Stevens Field prior to May 1, 2021

Registered speaker Vern Stenman of Big Top Events spoke in support and answered questions.

Motion made by Martin, seconded by Leopold, to Approve with the condition that Big Top Events works with the neighbors, the area neighborhood associations, alders, and gets the approval of appropriate City agencies. Motion passed with the following vote:

Approve: 4 - Moira Harrington; Madelyn Leopold; Al Martin and Venus Washington.

Oppose: 2 - Ald. Zachary Henak and Ald. Paul Skidmore.

[59272](#)

Madison Mallards informational reports regarding the 2020 Fan Access Plan, Neighborhood Impact Plan, and Responsible Alcohol Consumption Action Plan, at Warner Park.

Registered speaker Vern Stenman of Madison Mallards spoke in support.

Alder Abbas spoke regarding his concern with the lack of communication and outreach with the northside neighborhood associations. He supports the games, but wants confirmation that they are involved going forward.

Motion made by Martin, seconded by Leopold to Refer to the next Board of Park Commissioners meeting. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

59273

Request by Vern Stenman, Madison Mallards, for fireworks and other promotions for the 2020 Mallards Baseball season, at Warner Park.

Registered speaker Vern Stenman of Madison Mallards spoke in support.

Motion made by Skidmore, seconded by Martin, to Refer to the next Board of Park Commissioners meeting. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

Motion made by Skidmore, seconded by Martin, to Amend the motion to Approve the drive-in movie section of the request. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

The meeting recessed at 8:35 PM

Members Present: 7 – Emily Gnam; Moira Harrington; Ald. Zachary Henak; Madelyn Leopold; Al Martin; Ald. Paul Skidmore; and Venus Washington.

The meeting reconvened at 8:40 PM

Members Present: 7 – Emily Gnam; Moira Harrington; Ald. Zachary Henak; Madelyn Leopold; Al Martin; Ald. Paul Skidmore; and Venus Washington.

59745

Adopting the Oscar Mayer Special Area Plan as a Supplement to the City of Madison Comprehensive Plan.

Registrant Maggie Freespirit spoke neither in support nor opposition.

Registered speaker Beth Sluys was in opposition and played a video of Dr. Jill Bolte Taylor.

Registered speaker Dave Bierman spoke in opposition.

Dan McAuliffe of City Planning presented an overview of options A and B.

Friends of Hartmeyer proposed an option C.

Registered speaker Greg Padden spoke in support.

Registered speaker Paul Noeldner of Friends of Hartmeyer Natural Area and Madison FUN, Friends of Urban Nature, spoke in opposition.

Registered speaker Barb Noelder spoke in opposition.

Registered speaker Candace Diaz was in support and provided a slide presentation.

Registrant Anita Weier of Friends of Hartmeyer Natural Area was in opposition.

Registrant Barbara Taylor was in support.

Registrant Bernice Armould was in opposition.

There was discussion about the three plans between the Park commissioners, Alders Abbas and Rummell, and City staff.

Motion made by Martin, seconded by Skidmore, to Refer to the next Board of Park Commissioners meeting. Motion passed by the following vote:

Approve: 5 - Moira Harrington; Madelyn Leopold; Al Martin; Ald. Paul Skidmore; and Venus Washington.

Oppose: 1 - Ald. Zachary Henak.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Henak, seconded by Leopold, to Adjourn at 11:19 PM. Motion passed by voice vote/other.