



City of Madison
Proceedings - Final
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

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

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

6:30 PM

1625 Northport Dr. (WPCRC)

CALL TO ORDER

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Joseph R. Clausius, Michael Schumacher, Stephen A. Webster, Betty Chewning, Emanuel Scarbrough and Betty N. MacDonald

Excused: William Barker

Parks staff present: James Morgan, Si Widstrand, Elinor Riley, Russ Hefty, Laura Bauer, LaVonne LaFave

City staff present: Joe Stepnik

President Scarbrough called the meeting to order at 6:30 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

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 9, 2007

A.

A motion was made by Chewning/Barker to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 9, 2007 regular meeting of the Park Commission. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Olbrich Botanical Society Minutes of April 17, 2007 Meeting

A.

A motion was made by Chewning/Webster to accept the Minutes of the Olbrich Botanical Society April 17, 2007 meeting of the Olbrich Botanical Society. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Committee

B. Minutes of March 21, 2007 Meeting

A motion was made by MacDonald/Webster to accept the Minutes of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Committee March 21, 2007 meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARK COMMISSION

Appointments to Committees

A.

President Scarbrough reported that Alder Clausius has been appointed to the Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee of the Park Commission and that Alder Schumacher has been appointed to the Long Range Planning Committee of the Park Commission. Both Alders Clausius and Schumacher are appointed to the Ad Hoc Committee on Alcohol and Related Behaviors in Parks. Finally, Bill Barker is appointed to the position of Park Commission member on the James Madison Park Property Planning Committee and Steve Webster will serve as an alternate in the event that Mr. Barker is unable to attend a meeting.

President Scarbrough then commented that when he reviewed the Park Commission packet he noticed how extremely busy the summer season has already been for parks staff and that he and his fellow Park Commissioners really appreciate what a good job the maintenance people are doing and asked that it be so noted in the official record. The balance of the Commission concurred with his statement.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS

Written Report of Supervisor's Activities

A.

A motion was made by Webster/Chewning to approve the written report. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Informational Items

B.

1. Carp in Vilas Park Update

This is a DNR project that we do not control. Standing on the bridge above the Vilas Lagoon thousands of carp can be seen. The DNR placed radio tags on many carp and have been waiting until those tagged carp enter the lagoon before they proceed with the removal. Unfortunately while they have been waiting for those carp to enter, they lost the contractor who was going to conduct the removal due to other commitments. Additionally the lake weeds will need to be harvested again in order for the nets to move through the water. The carp have already spawned in the lagoon.

2. Pool Opening 2007

The Goodman Swimming Pool opened two weekends ago. It did not open on that Saturday because of weather but Sunday was a good day. Last weekend both days were good. It opens daily for the season this coming Saturday. There are tradeoffs between fiscal responsibility and accommodating citizen requests for service. The pool will not open when weather is marginal.

3. USTA Tennis Leagues

The tennis group has submitted a written appeal to the Mayor. However, only a mayoral aide met with them. The letter they submitted to the Mayor did not accurately depict their treatment by the Park Commission or city staff. A detailed excerpt from the Park Commission Minutes was provided to the Mayor's office. The group has agreed to work with Parks and hopes to resolve this with a new fee structure. Their members are also contacting their respective alders regarding this impasse. MacDonald added that the Parks Foundation agreed with the Park Commission and tabled their discussion with the tennis group until the problems could be resolved. It was also pointed out the tennis person writing the letter lives outside the city.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES

Legal Opinion from City Attorney Michael P. May dated May 16, 2007

A. regarding Authority of Board of Park Commissioners to Dispose of City Parkland.

President Scarbrough noted that the Park Commission might need to discuss this Opinion in detail and decide on a course of action. Commissioners responded the Opinion was well constructed and didn't leave room for another interpretation. It appears from the last sentence in the Opinion that final authority rests with the Common Council. President Scarbrough also reported that the Attorney General's office responded to the request for an opinion from that office by stating the office only works for the Legislators and Governor. It would take a request from one of our legislators for their office to become involved. It was noted that some alders and citizens who live in the James Madison area do not agree that the land should be sold. It amounts to having a parcel of private property for condos in the middle of parkland. At this point it was suggested that the Commission accept the Opinion from the City Attorney while reserving the right to explore other alternatives. Members also questioned whether there might be cases that were not cited because the outcome was different. At this point members believe their recourse is to persuade others of their point of view. Superintendent Morgan interjected that Commissioners cannot get involved in public if the item goes to referendum. People on other committees do speak with alders concerning issues. Alder Schumacher believed Council members would be willing to listen to information and different points of view but could not speak for them.

B. [06264](#)

Accepting an Offer to Sell from Ervin Bendorf, Curtis Castleberg and Edward Wojtal for a parcel of land located at 5420 Raywood Road for the expansion of Thut Park.

A motion was made by Clausius, seconded by MacDonald, to Return to Lead with the Following Recommendation(s) to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed by acclamation.

Widstrand provided a brief background on this park. The park began with a remnant of commercial property that was along the Beltline. The Thut family subsequently donated land and additional land was traded for highway remnants to bring it to its current size of 6 acres. Recently two additional parcels were acquired that will help create a large open space and play area together with a wooded area. This park was created to provide for a large open space for soccer

and little league/softball in the area since there are no other large open spaces there. There is a neighborhood center a couple of blocks away that has expressed interest in programming youth recreational activities there. A finalized master plan will be presented to the Park Commission in the near future. The other park holdings in this area are all much smaller in size.

A motion was made by Chewning/Webster to take items VII. H and I out of order. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- H. [06758](#) Authorizing the acceptance of an Offer to Sell from Leonard J. Filut for a single-family property located at 4302 Loeprich Lane in the Town of Westport for the expansion of Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park.

A motion was made by Webster, seconded by Chewning, to Return to Lead with the Following Recommendation(s) to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed by acclamation.

This parcel was not available for purchase 20 years ago when this park was expanded. The new owner is willing to sell to the city and it is a great opportunity to remove an encroachment giving Parks the management freedom to do work there.

- I. [06628](#) Authorizing the acceptance of an offer to sell from Andrea and Phillip Gandolf for a residential property located at 10 Yellowstone Court and to authorize the demolition of the property to be utilized for City of Madison park purposes.

A motion was made by Chewning, seconded by Clausius, to Return to Lead with the Following Recommendation(s) to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed by acclamation.

Widstrand stated the Engineering Division who will provide the funds for the purchase initiated this Resolution. This dwelling, adjacent to the Mineral Point landfill, has an unstable foundation causing it to lean. The house would be demolished and the park could expand into the area. Stepnik of the Real Estate section reported that four houses had originally been purchased. The landfill was remediated, the yards were corrected and this house was resold. The foundation is now cracking and the city is interested in correcting a bad situation.

- C. [06402](#) Amending the 2007 operating budget to authorize adjustments to expenditure and revenue categories within the Municipal Pool budget.

This matter was Return to Lead with the Following Recommendation(s) to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed.

Superintendent Morgan reported that last year when the pool opened; the pool consultant prepared the budget, based on their experiences in the industry. The Parks Division did not have sufficient data to prepare the 2007 budget since it was due just four weeks after the pool opened so the budget submittal was identical to the 2006 budget. Based on year-end data the budget that was adopted for 2007 was in need of adjustment. The Resolution to amend the 2007 budget reflects more accurately how line items should be charged but doesn't match the adopted budget, which is the reason for the amendment. State codes dictate the number of guards and no changes were made that would put public safety at risk. Areas that reflect these changes include both the raising of concession prices and limiting the selection of products and if the weather is marginal rain checks will be issued so that guards can close the pool.

- D. [06408](#) Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign and execute a five (5) year Agreement with Keva Sports Center for priority field scheduling at four (4) soccer fields at Reindahl Community Park in exchange for Keva maintaining said field.

A motion was made by MacDonald, seconded by Chewning, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by acclamation.

- E. [06412](#) Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign and execute a five (5) year Agreement with Princeton Soccer Club, Inc., for priority field scheduling at four (4) soccer fields at Reindahl Community Park in exchange for Princeton Soccer Club, Inc. maintaining said fields.

A motion was made by Chewning, seconded by Clausius, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by acclamation.

Following the votes on the two soccer items, a question was asked regarding the parity between soccer fees and tennis fees. The soccer people have contributed significantly amounts of time and money. There had been much pressure for new high quality soccer fields in the city that the Parks Division was not in a position to provide. There was vacant land at Reindahl Park designated for soccer fields in the Mast Plan but there were no funds to construct them. The two groups fronted tens of thousands of dollars to construct the fields. In return they asked for priority in scheduling games. Keva and Princeton also maintain the fields by doing their own seeding, mowing and marking. There are two days a week those fields are open for anyone else's use and are scheduled through the Parks Division. The Union doesn't object to this arrangement because the fields were constructed on land they did not previously maintain. Both soccer clubs have signed contracts monitored by our Community Services Manager. The city did partner with them to bring in water and they also follow the city's Pesticide Policy.

- F. [06587](#) Creating Section 8.24(1)(x) of the Madison General Ordinances to regulate the use of alcohol beverages in Law Park.

A motion was made by MacDonald, seconded by Schumacher, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER A lengthy discussion was held regarding the Ordinance Amendment to ban alcohol in Law Park. Commissioners noted this was part of a larger picture and did not feel comfortable banning alcohol park by park. They also noted this is a societal issue and by banning alcohol a park at a time they are simply moving people from one park to another. They have an Ad Hoc Committee to Study Alcohol and Related Behaviors in City Parks and prefer to come up with a comprehensive plan for all of the city parks. Law Park will be included in that overall policy.

The motion to adopt failed by the following roll call vote: 2 Ayes (Michael Schumacher, Betty MacDonald), 4 Noes (Joseph Clausius, Stephen Webster, Betty Chewning, Emanuel Scarbrough), 1 Excused (William Barker). The motion failed by the following vote:

Excused: Barker
Aye: Schumacher and MacDonald
No: Clausius, Webster, Chewning and Scarbrough

Registered Speakers: in support
Alder Mike Verveer
Officer Molly Thomson

Alder Verveer began his remarks by thanking the Park Commissioners for their support of items that have occurred in his District, such as the renovation of the Brittingham Boathouse and the continued excellent service provided on the State Street Mall Capitol Concourse by the Parks maintenance staff. He then asked for support for the ordinance to ban the use of alcohol in Law Park with the exception of events that are approved by the Parks Division.

Law Park is the only park in the central city/Isthmus area that allows alcohol use without a permit. The alcohol use issue has been around for many years. The problems in Law Park have become much more acute this year. This park is a gateway to the community and a beautiful vista for visitors and others. The users of Law Park are not able to enjoy the park and in particular the path along Lake Monona used by bikers, runners and walkers because of the problems of the last few months. There are large groups of people hanging out, consuming intoxicants, and a small percentage are raising their voices, fighting and causing disturbances. The perception is that Law Park is becoming a scary place and people are avoiding it. He doesn't believe changes can wait until the Park Commission Ad Hoc Committee makes recommendations for all city parks on behavior and alcohol use. He believes time is of the essence with regard to adopting a ban there. He emphasized he does not make this request lightly but the number of complaints he's received recently have caused him to make this request and he has no illusion that it will solve the problem, it will merely displace it as has happened at other parks. However, police believe there isn't any other choice.

Officer Thomson provided statistics beginning with this past January. As weather warmed, the calls began. There were no calls in January and February, 2 calls in March, 4 in April, and 18 in May. Many calls are generated outside the perimeter of the park that do not get labeled as originating in the park. There are people sleeping in the ramp by Monona Terrace, as well as intoxicated people, exposures, stolen bikes, noise complaints and even a death. The calls for service are increasing as the weather turns nicer. Police have not been able to determine why the problems there are worse this year and have not been able to determine other methods of handling the problem. There are no ordinances in place for them to deal with the situation until problems happen. A police presence does not deter drinking because they know it's allowed. They have increased their patrols but that isn't sufficient to discourage drinking. While some of the individuals are transients, many have permanent addresses in the community. At one point in time there was a proposal to ban people from particular areas if they had been arrested within the identified area, which did not pass.

Commissioners questioned whether the ban would cover the entire park, and it would, with the exception of permits granted by the Park Commission when events are held. They also expressed concern about moving people from park to park as well as not harassing legitimate park users. Police would use the ban as a tool to address problem makers and it would allow police to ask users to either get rid of any alcohol they have on them or ask them to leave the park. The water ski team has been an asset to the community for many years and they can be solicited as to whether they want a permit for their spectators. Superintendent

Morgan interjected that if the Law Park problem about perceived safety becomes public, people may not want to go watch the ski shows. He then explained the difficulty in renting Brittingham shelter because everyone perceives that as a problem area. Commissioners noted that the bike path is a transportation corridor and it is important that it be safe for everyone, not just casual users in Law Park.

It is a societal issue in need of programs that would address more positive steps such as resources for treatment programs. No level of government provides enough resources. Dane County is responsible for human services programs within the county. Commissioners noted that it is difficult to vote against an issue when the alder of that district is asking for their support. It is conceivable that each alder in turn could ask for the same consideration for the parks in their districts. They believe it is a small group that is causing the immediate problem and their preference is to let the Ad Hoc Committee (of the Park Commission studying alcohol and related behaviors in city parks) deal with it as part of a comprehensive policy instead of going park by park. The proposed ordinance does not address the overall problem and there is no consistent policy in parks and public spaces. The Ad Hoc Committee has heard a different set of neighborhood problems with each area of town. Some of those problems are under the purview of the Park Commission, others are not. Commissioners were divided on adopting the Ordinance because it is only a temporary solution and may disperse the problem. However, not doing anything will allow the problem to continue in that park. There are approximately twenty-five different parks that have some type of prohibition regarding alcohol consumption.

At this point, President Scarbrough relinquished the chair to Vice President Webster in order to provide an update on the Ad Hoc Committee of the Park Commission to Study the Problem of Alcohol and Related Behaviors in City Parks.

He reported the committee was created originally because of problems that were brought to the Park Commission's attention that were occurring in Vilas Park. The first meeting was held at the Multi-Cultural Center on Beld Street. The Ad Hoc Committee has been gathering information to present to the Park Commission to develop a policy that all our citizens can live with that addresses the behaviors that are evident as the result of alcohol use, must strike a balance that doesn't eliminate the responsible use of alcohol. The past practice of banning alcohol park by park doesn't appear to be an approach that is working. This is really a societal issue. The current practice pits neighborhoods against one another. Questions asked at each meeting included should we ban alcohol at Vilas Park, should we ban alcohol park by park or in all parks, why should alcohol be banned and what issues were evident from their perspective in the parks they visited. Other questions were how do we deal with the behavior that alcohol consumption causes in our parks and what would it mean to the citizens of our city if alcohol were banned in all parks.

The behaviors included loud music, bad language, dogs running loose, litter all over, the use of large quantities of alcohol and alcohol used in front of children, harassing and ogling people in the park, women feeling harassed and gambling in the parks. Based on citizen input, there appear to be two types of parks - community parks and metropolitan parks. Vilas and Warner are parks where everybody comes. There are other small parks that are used only by the immediate community (neighborhood). Any comprehensive policy that is

adopted will affect both the small community/neighborhood parks as well as the larger, more metropolitan parks. Results of the meeting held at Warner Park were that there were no alcohol problems there, the problems at Elver Park concerned litter and loud music, not alcohol. There are a few problems with homelessness at Demetral.

There are kids who go to parks after hours to drink, there are families who may have a drink in a picnic setting, i.e. family reunions and parties and then there are the chronic alcoholics. This last group tends to cause the problems, some have jobs and some do not. There are many ingenious methods for concealing alcohol, including tying it to strings, hidden in bushes, etc. There is no long-term treatment facility that exists in the city. Additionally, many of these problem people are marginally mentally ill. They tend to medicate themselves with legal drugs, i.e. cigarettes and alcohol.

The Committee also stated that any policy is only as good as the enforcement component. If police can not/do not enforce, the policy does no good. The use of alcohol still continues at Brittingham, even though it is banned in that park. The Committee is looking for a way to deal with the problem of these individuals. The first issue is to really get a count of how many individuals are causing problems, who they are and where they reside. Once those facts are known, some type of policy can be developed on how to deal with the problem.

President Scarbrough reported on his visits at Vilas Park this year. When he was there during the week, there were very few people present. When he visited on the weekend, there were people of all ethnicities present as well as a small group in the parking lot but no one was causing problems. He spoke with some park users who lived in the neighborhood who indicated they didn't have a problem with other park users although sometimes the music was a little loud. If alcohol is banned in the central city, what will happen to Olin Park and other parks? Some of the individuals using alcohol in Law and Brittingham Parks are homeless and desire some place to sit and congregate and they will find an alternate location. One of the solutions is to find a safe place for them to go. There are also cultural issues where people who are originally from other locations are used to congregating outdoors in warm weather.

The Committee needs to hold another meeting and begin to develop a policy to address this problem. It does appear that more than one meeting will need to be held and that other city agencies and committees should be included so the issue can be studied comprehensively. A recommendation was also made to include the county agency providing the detox facility. The original plan had been to have some type of policy in place by this summer but the problem is more expansive and will require further discussion in order to create a suitable policy.

It was noted that if the Ordinance before the Commission this evening were adopted, that action could be revisited in the future. Schumacher indicated this Ordinance was a narrow solution for Law Park and that the larger problem could be addressed in the Ad Hoc Committee. At this point, Vice President Webster returned the gavel to President Scarbrough.

Following that lengthy discussion regarding the Ordinance Amendment to ban alcohol in Law Park, Commissioners noted this was part of a larger picture and did not feel comfortable banning alcohol park by park. They also noted this is a societal issue and by banning alcohol a park at a time they are simply moving

people from one park to another. They have an Ad Hoc Committee to Study Alcohol and Related Behaviors in City Parks and prefer to come up with a comprehensive plan for all of the city parks. Law Park will be included in that overall policy.

- G. [06534](#) Authorizing the execution of a Permanent Limited Easement for Private Driveway Purposes to Mary K. Margetis, across a portion of Merrill Springs Park located at 5102 Spring Court.

A motion was made by Chewning, seconded by Clausius, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by acclamation.

Superintendent Morgan reported this easement will provide driveway access for a single family dwelling directly east of the park. They have always crossed the edge of the park to get to their driveway. The advantage of entering into a written easement is it will be valid only for a single family dwelling. It prevents any other type of dwelling from being built on that property.

- J. [06678](#) Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an amendment to the contract for purchase of services with Isthmus Architects for Breese Stevens Stadium renovation.

A motion was made by Webster, seconded by Chewning, to Return to Lead with the Following Recommendation(s) to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed by acclamation.

Widstrand stated that this resolution allows phases one and two of the construction to be combined

- K. [06675](#) Authorizing the closure of Warner Park lagoon and its connecting waterway to Lake Mendota during 2007 Rhythm and Booms celebration.

A motion was made by Webster, seconded by Chewning, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by acclamation.

This resolution addresses a safety issue. In prior years people would bring inflatable toys to float on the lagoon. The lagoon provides the safety barrier for the firing of the fireworks.

L. Request of Lora J. Wilkinson of ACT 5, Steering Committee Route Chair to waive the fee for the use of Elver Park's new shelter on Sunday, August 5, 2007.

**Registered Speaker: in support
Jeanne Marshall**

Webster informed the new Commissioners of the longstanding policy of not waiving fees for any event. The policy is not subject to exception because it causes the Commissioners to judge the worthiness of one event over another. President Scarbrough noted that the parks fee is very small in light of the amount of money the event receives but is necessary for park operations.

A motion was made by Webster/Chewning to deny the request of Lora J. Wilkinson of ACT 5, Steering Committee Route Chair to waive the fee for the use

of Elver Park's new shelter on Sunday, August 5, 2007. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. .

Request of Jason Schumacher of Trek Bicycle Corporation to use Breese Stevens Stadium for its Picnic/ Meeting/Trade Show on August 13, 16 and 18, 2007.

Registered Speaker: in support
Jason Schumacher

A motion was made by Chewing/Schumacher (no relation) to approve the request of Jason Schumacher of Trek Bicycle Corporation to use Breese Stevens Stadium for its Picnic/Meeting/Trade Show on August 13, 16 and 18, 2007 based upon sponsor's compliance with staff recommendations. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Kettle Pond Conservation Park Dredging Project

A.

Russ Hefty, Parks Conservation Supervisor, reported this project has been on a list of projects for a long time. This glacial kettle was formed approximately 10,000 years ago and has been filling with sediment since the 1840's. First there was agricultural run-off and then urban run-off coming primarily from Dahlen Street. There is approximately 4 feet of accumulated sediment sitting on the clay bottom. The water is now sitting higher than the clay seal and seeps away. The dredging will remove the accumulated sediment. Following that excavation, additional curbing will be installed at the Dahlen Street end to facilitate storm water drainage into a catch basin. A rain garden will be installed at the Dale Avenue street end to encourage infiltration of the storm water at that point. Native aquatics will then be installed in spring 2008. The Spring Harbor Neighborhood Association is very much in favor of this project.

A motion was made by Webster/Chewing to approve the Kettle Pond Conservation Park dredging project. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Owen Park Retention / Wildlife Ponds Project

B.

Hefty stated that Owen Park is the second largest conservation park in the city. There has been a great deal of restoration of the 100 acre park. Parks has been concerned about the southern area of the park for many years because of storm water erosion. As the trees grew over the years, the grass cover was shaded out, causing the water flowing through the area to create gullies.

Registered Speaker: in support
John Reimer of City Engineering

The two primary ponds are to improve water quality by removing sediment before it discharges into Lake Mendota. The third pond is to provide a wildlife feature where a water control device will be used to determine water flowing into this pond with the ability to expose mudflats for migratory birds. All the ponds will be landscaped with native aquatic plants, native shrubs and trees. The Engineering

Division is picking up the majority of the costs for this project.

A motion was made by Chewning/MacDonald to approve the Owen Park Retention/Wildlife Ponds Project. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

2008 Preliminary Capital Budget

A.

Widstrand highlighted the changes to the budget since the last meeting. One addition is \$40,000 for the UV treatment system to the Goodman Pool. Another is \$30,000 for additional furnishings when the administrative offices move to the City County Building later this year. The Comptroller's office is requesting that accumulated small items be moved into the operation budget, which is where they really belong, but whether there will be money in the operating budget isn't certain.

Pavement repair for the Goodman Maintenance Facility wasn't included in that contract and will cost about \$100,000 to complete those repairs. Two neighborhood tennis courts at Norman Clayton and Heritage Heights Parks are included. Our preference is to build a larger complex at Elver but that land hasn't been purchased to enlarge Elver yet, so it makes sense to do Norman Clayton now and by the time it needs to be redone we should be able to enlarge the complex at Elver. The alder and neighborhood prefer that we rebuild the courts at Heritage instead of increasing courts at Kennedy. Two courts have been eliminated at Heistand.

Parks is investigating the possibility of an artificial field turf system at Breese Stevens. Grass can't stand more than 100 games in a year but field turf (such as that used at Camp Randall) would accommodate additional games and other events to generate additional income for the facility. The cost of this item is \$800,000 and it would be a supplemental request. There is some interest in private fundraising for this project. Parks is investigating whether there is a market to add enough activities to pay for the turf. There is also a lower incidence of injuries with field turf and soccer groups have been endorsing its use for that reason.

There was a question about the cost savings of eliminating the hockey boards at Goodman skating. Cost savings will be achieved by not requiring labor for installation and removal, as well as replacement of materials for the board and then the storage of them. Superintendent Morgan noted it wasn't a cost issue in his mind because he goes past it daily and when he checks the ice, it doesn't have any skating scratches on it. It will also save the cost of replacing all the lighting. Webster remarked it is a unique ice surface and is exceptional for skaters. He suggested promoting it more instead of getting rid of the opportunity to play hockey there. He requested this item stay in the budget.

Widstrand explained that Parks planned to do some restructuring of the beach area at BB Clarke beach that Engineering doesn't cover because it's a maintenance access problem and sand management problem that shouldn't affect users. Engineering has indicated that shoreline work at Olbrich and Hudson beaches will likely be in 2008 and possibly also the BB Clark beach if they have enough funds.

Chewning stated she was very impressed with the work Parks does with rain gardens, retention ponds, and other environmental projects and wondered about using those things to promote education of the public. Widstrand noted many of the projects are done in partnership with the Engineering Division because they are the designated water quality managers. Parks and Engineering/Stormway Utility are working jointly to develop educational programs and develop much better management programs. Engineering, like Parks, started with a group of employees that didn't know the environment or the names of plants and we have been working on educating staff to promote these types of projects. There is a special skill involved in producing interpretative signs on these projects that Parks and Engineering lack.

President Scarbrough spoke about writing articles for the various news publications that describe the various Parks projects as they occur and education people on how Parks works to beautify our city. Many periodicals focus on particular subjects for specific issues of their publications and possibly Parks could write articles that tie in to those topics. He also suggested the possibility of writing a monthly article on what's happening in our parks, i.e. in the Rhythm Section, etc.

President Scarbrough set a meeting date of June 25, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. for the next Ad Hoc Committee of the Park Commission to Study the Problem of Alcohol and Related Behaviors in City Parks.

X. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Webster/Chewning the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.