



## Meeting Minutes - Approved BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

*Consider: Who benefits? Who is burdened?  
Who does not have a voice at the table?  
How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?*

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Wednesday, March 13, 2024

6:30 PM

VIRTUAL

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was held virtually at 6:30PM on Wednesday, March 13, 2024. President Harrington called the meeting to order at 6:31PM. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

**Members Present:** Ald. Yanette Figueroa Cole; Moira Harrington; Catie McDonald; Chandra Miller Fienen; Michelle Probst; and Ben Williams.

**Members Absent:** Ald. Charles Myadze.

**Alders Present:** Ald. Latimer Burris.

**Parks Staff Present:** Eric Knepp; Lisa Laschinger; CJ Ryan; Ann Shea, Tanya Zastrow; Adam Kaniewski; Kelly Post; Ann Friewald; Joanne Austin; and Sarah Grimalkin.

**City Staff Present:** Justin Svingen, Public Health and Lara Mainella, City Attorney's Office.

2      [82228](#)

Approval of the Minutes of the February 14, 2024 Board of Park Commissioners meeting.

**Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Probst, to Approve the Minutes of the February 14, 2024 Board of Park Commissioners meeting. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**

3      [82227](#)

Public Comment

Registered speaker John Fournelle of Veteran's for Peace spoke in opposition of item 24 (Legislative File 82207) during Public Comment.

Registered speaker Paul Noeldner spoke in support of a Parks and Engineering Greenway Ordinance.

Registrant Justin Novotney was in support.

4      **DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS**

Miller Fienen recused herself from items 20 (Legislative File 82153) and 21 (Legislative File 82152) due to a familial connection.

**5 President of Park Commission**

President Harrington shared an update that this year is the 130th year anniversary of the Parks Division, which started in 1894 with the Park & Pleasure Drive Association. Great to reflect that people still support and appreciate their parks, the system has significant history from burial mounds to other parks and buildings that have been in existence for over 100 years. Parks Foundations's Miller Fienen shared an update on Madison Park Foundations's Picnic in the Park event on May 18th.

**6 Superintendent of Parks**

Ald. Charles Myadze arrived at 6:45 PM.

Members Present: 7 – Ald. Yanette Figueroa Cole; Moira Harrington; Catie McDonald; Ald. Charles Myadze; Chandra Miller Fienen; Michelle Probst; and Ben Williams.

Superintendent Eric Knepp shared a Superintendent update, highlighting future agenda items, including Thorstrand houses, volunteer work at Elver, Climate Toolkit at Olbrich, and discussed the proclamations on the agenda. Knepp also shared that the Imagination Center at Reindahl Park plan passed Urban Design Commission and is shaping up to be a great project.

**7 [82229](#) March 2024 Superintendent's Report**

Public Information Officer Ann Shea presented the Public Information Officer quarterly report.

Motion made by Williams, seconded by Figueroa Cole, to Accept the Report.  
Motion made by voice vote/other.

**8 [82243](#) Report of the Minutes of the February 21, 2024 Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee; February 29, 2024 Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee; and December 13, 2023 Olbrich Botanical Society.**

Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Miller Fienen, to Accept the Minutes.  
Motion passed by voice vote/other.

**9 NEW BUSINESS**

Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Probst, to Approve by Consent: Agenda No. 10, Legislative File No. 82226; No. 11, Legislative File No. 82192; No. 12, Legislative File No. 82187; No. 13, Legislative File No. 81750; No. 14, Legislative File No. 82154; and No. 15, Legislative File No. 81924. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

**10\* [82226](#) Commemorating the 54th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, 2024, proclaiming April 20, 2024 as Earth Day Challenge Day, and endorsing and encouraging citizen participation in the clean-up events at City of Madison Parks.**

Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Probst, to Approve by consent.  
Motion passed by voice vote/other.

- 11\* [82192](#) Proclaiming April 28, 2024 as World Migratory Bird Day 2024 in the City of Madison.  
**Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Probst, to Approve by Consent.  
Motion passed by voice vote/other.**
- 12\* [82187](#) Proclaiming Board of Park Commissioner Commitment to Supporting Pollinator Health  
**Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Probst, to Approve by Consent.  
Motion passed by voice vote/other.**
- 13\* [81750](#) Review of Events Administratively Approved by Staff  
**Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Probst, to Approve by Consent.  
Motion passed by voice vote/other.**
- 14\* [82154](#) Request by Sessions at McPike Park Board to extend Madison Park hours for the Sessions at McPike Park, event activities, including amplification and beer sales, to 11 PM, on Friday, June 14 & Saturday, June 15, 2024 at McPike Park. On these nights, the amplification after 9:45 PM is in a tent and is limited to 72 dB for comedy.  
**Registered speaker Tobi Silgman was in support and did not speak.  
Registered speaker Judy Olsen was in support and available to answer questions.  
Registered speaker Robert Queen of Sessions at McPike Park was in support and available to answer questions.  
Registrant Gregory Mickells was in support.  
Registrant Jovan Chavez of Sessions at McPike Park was in support.  
Registrant Sarah Stimart was in support.  
Registrant Robert Garza was in support.**  
**Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Probst, to Approve by Consent.  
Motion passed by voice vote/other.**
- 15\* [81924](#) Request by Madison Opera to extend Madison Park hours for Opera in the Park event activities, including amplification, to 11:00 PM, Saturday, July 20, (21, rain date) 2024 at Garner Park.  
**Public speaker Kathryn Smith of Madison Opera was in support and available to answer questions.  
Registrant Gregory Mickells was in support.**  
**Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Probst, to Approve by Consent.  
Motion passed by voice vote/other.**

- 16      [82396](#)      Approving recommendation from Parks Division staff for revised approach to initial archaeological review at Vilas Park.
- Laschinger began the presentation.**
- Landscape Architect Adam Kaniewski provided overview of the approach.**
- Registered speaker John Hodgson of Phase One Archaeological Services, Inc was in support, provided additional information and answered questions.**
- Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Figueroa Cole to Approve. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**
- Commission members agreed to take Items 22 (Leg File 82420) and 24 (Leg File 82297) next, then return to item 17 (Leg File 82393) due to the number of registrants.**
- 17      [82393](#)      Informational presentation by Parks staff of the proposed Park Development Plans for seven neighborhood and mini parks in the Northeast Planning Area.
- Kaniewski provided overview and update regarding the planning process.**
- 18      [82391](#)      Informational presentation by Parks staff of the proposed Park Development Plans for twenty-three neighborhood and mini parks in the West Planning Area.
- Landscape Architect Sarah Grimalkin provided overview and update regarding the planning process.**
- 19      [82242](#)      Informational Presentation by Parks and Public Health staff regarding Nature Everywhere Initiative in Madison and Beyond
- Olbrich Botanical Gardens Director Tanya Zastrow and Justin Svingen of Public Health Madison and Dane County provided overview of Nature Everywhere Initiative and upcoming Nature Everywhere international conference.**
- 20      [82153](#)      Authorizing the Execution of the First Amendment to the Operating Agreement for Brittingham Beach House
- Ryan provided overview of request and was available to answer questions.**
- Registered speaker Tyler Leeper of Brittingham Boats, LLC was available to answer questions.**
- Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Probst, to Approve with Miller Fienen abstaining.**

- 21      [82152](#)      Authorizing the Execution of the First Amendment to the Use Agreement for the Wingra Park Boat Livery and Vilas Park Beach
- Ryan provided overview of request and was available to answer questions.**
- Registered speaker Tyler Leeper of Wingra Canoe and Sailing Center, Inc was available to answer questions.**
- Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Myadze, to Approve with Miller Fienen Abstaining. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**
- 22      [82420](#)      Approving Request by Madison Mallards for additional fireworks displays for the 2024 Mallards Season at Warner Park Stadium.
- The Commission agreed to take items 22 and 24 out-of-order, after item 16 (Leg File 82393), due to the number of registrants.**
- Ryan provided overview.**
- Registered speaker Beth Sluys spoke in opposition.**  
**Registered speaker Alder Amani Latimer Burris spoke.**  
**Registered speaker Samantha Rubin was available to answer questions, but chose to speak in support.**  
**Registered speaker Vern Stenman was in support and available to answer questions.**  
**Registrant Mary Ann McBride was in opposition.**  
**Registrant Rebecca Leidner was in opposition.**  
**Registrant Jennifer Argelander was in opposition.**
- Motion made Miller Fienen, seconded by Figueroa Cole, to allow 7 dates, requiring DNR approval for the June 28 show. If the June 28 show is not approved by DNR, show will move to an August date. The additional date must be a low decible show. There must be at least 2 shows for softball, with at least one of softball shows a full fireworks show.**
- 23      [82283](#)      Authorizing the negotiation and execution of a Purchase and Sale Agreement between the City of Madison and VH Acquisitions, LLC, or its successors and assigns, for the City's acquisition of multiple parcels of land near the intersections of Marty Road, Mid Town Road, and Raymond Road, and Amending the adopted 2024 Engineering-Major Streets and 2024 Stormwater Utility Capital Budgets. (District 1 and District 20)
- Knepp provided overview of the acquisition, including a brief history, overall development plans, and expansion of Elver Park.**
- Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by McDonald, to RETURN TO LEAD WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**

24      [82207](#)      Informational presentation regarding Parks policy for permitting Private Art to be placed on park property

The Commission agreed to take items 22 (Leg File 82420) and 24 (Leg File 82207) out-of-order, then return to Item 17 (LegiFile 82393), due to the number of registrants.

Ryan provided overview of policy. Assistant City Attorney Lara Mainella provided summary and discussed potential issues with signs on private property as a solution, and expressed need to reevaluate the policy for events such as the long-standing permitted events. Mainella and Laschinger were available to answer questions.

Registered speaker John Fournelle spoke in opposition.  
Registered speaker Steve Books spoke in opposition.  
Registered speaker Paul McMahon spoke in opposition.  
Registrant Harry Richardson was in opposition.

25      **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by McDonald, to Adjourn at 9:38 PM.  
Motion passed by voice vote/other.