



City of Madison

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

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

7:30 PM

3330 Atwood Ave (Olbrich Botanical Gardens)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

and one vacancy

Present: 6 -

Joseph R. Clausius; Michael Schumacher; William W. Barker; David L. Wallner; Betty Chewning and Emanuel Scarbrough

Parks staff present: Superintendent Kevin Briski, Si Widstrand, Brad Weisinger, Roberta Sladky, LaVonne LaFave

Alders & City Staff: Ald. Marsha Rummel, Ald. Paul Skidmore, Dan Rolfs, Planning & Development, Ray Harmon, Mayor's Office, Anne Zellhofer, Assistant City Attorney

President Barker called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed. t

PARKS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

The January employees of the month will attend the February meeting and be recognized at that time.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President of the Park Commission

President Barker opened the floor to nominations for President. A motion was made by Scarbrough/Clausius to nominate Bill Barker as President. A motion was made by Chewning/Scarbrough to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Bill Barker. MOTION CARRIED with Barker abstaining. President Barker stated he really enjoys the role and thanked the Commissioners for allowing him to continue in that role. He truly loves Madison's parks.

Vice President of the Park Commission

A motion was made by Chewning/Schumacher to nominate Emanuel Scarbrough as Vice President. A motion was made by Schumacher/Clausius to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Emanuel Scarbrough. MOTION CARRIED with Scarbrough abstaining.

A motion was made Schumacher/Scarborough to take item XI. Out of order. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resolution recognizing Si Widstrand's Retirement

President Barker read into the record the Resolution Commending, Honoring and Expressing Appreciation to Si Widstrand upon his retirement (see copy attached). A standing ovation followed.

Widstrand thanked the Commissioners and then commented that it's been a lot of fun. He's had a travelling retirement for the past month or so. It didn't feel like 34 years and when he looked back on his service, the most striking thing that's been accomplished over those years has been a cumulative effort. What he did was come to work and do his job. He's worked with good people and a good system. There have been many others that worked with him along the way. Tonight he wanted to thank the Park Commission for their service and support of him personally. While it's nice to receive the recognition, he noted that there was already a great park system in place that had been worked on for 80 years. He's confident that the next generation will move Parks even further ahead. He loved the aspect where you do your part to build on the work of others and then other people follow along in the future. The broad vision for the park system hasn't changed much since it was started, and it's been easy for him to adopt that philosophy during his career. Ideals such as providing parks within each reach of people's homes, preserving the best features of our landscape, building beautiful parks (but he's come to realize you don't build parks; you grow parks), having a wide range of recreation facilities for diverse activities and finding a balance between all of these things. With the city and parks expansion over those years, there were always a lot of parks in the pipeline. Sites were identified and acquired, then the parks were planned and developed at the rate of one or two parks each year. It's really been fun to work on all those aspects and there were probably 50+ parks pushed through to completion in that time. For him, it was like having a 6,000 acre sand box to play in. He didn't do it alone, there was great collaboration from city staff, who he really enjoyed working with, and also alders and Park Commissioners as well as other elected and appointed officials. He has probably listened to every wacko idea that has come along in the last 30 years that has provided some entertainment value to the job. He learned some things along the way and some of those ideas turned out to be pretty good.

He also observed that in the parks business we don't fight with our enemies, we fight with our friends and we fight among ourselves. People really want their viewpoint acknowledged and their passion and efforts respected. He's also seen this Commission offer that respect. Our friends are our advocates but Parks staff and the Park Commission are the gatekeepers and they must sort out what can get done with our resources. There isn't always a perfect compromise, we try but sometimes hard choices have to be made.

Widstrand is always looking forward and he still thinks there is great potential for this park system. The parks system and staff are dealing with transition right now, the system expanded rapidly about 50 years ago so now we are facing the rebuilding that needs to be done. In addition to the new work that is happening, Parks is also going through a generational shift with many retirements from the baby boomer generation. We knew this was coming, Jim Morgan talked about it in his strategic plan in 2000. There is change

happening and it's never easy, but he still sees great potential and we have great guidance from the Park Commission. There are great city employees, great Parks employees and there are great things ahead for the park system. If he was 25 again and looking for a great career, he'd sign up immediately. In closing he again thanked everyone "for letting me play in our sandbox. It was fun!"

Resolution honoring Betty McDonald

President Barker continued that the Park Commission has been really fortunate over the past four years to have the benefit and wisdom and good humor of a dear friend and neighbor, Betty MacDonald. A plaque commemorating MacDonald's service on the Park Commission was read into the record (copy attached) by Commissioner Betty Chewning. A standing ovation followed.

MacDonald addressed the Commissioners, thanking them for their recognition. She stated this has been a delight and she has enjoyed knowing all of them, and they know how deeply she loves "her" park and the good care she has tried to take of it and she has tried to share her concerns for it and all of the other parks that the Commission has dealt with.

Announcement of impending Recess

President Barker then advised all present that the plan for this evening's meeting is that at 8:00 p.m. a recess will be called and the meeting will move back downstairs to Evjue Commons to accommodate all who want to attend the meeting.

Returning to the Agenda, Appointments to Committees

President Barker announced the appointments to the standing committees of the Park Commission would be made in February. He will contact each Commissioner regarding their preferences. He is especially looking for two members for the Parks Foundation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Wallner/Chewning to approve the December 10, 2008 Minutes of the regular meeting of the Park Commission. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY..**

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Recess

A motion was made by Schumacher/Scarborough to recess the meeting and reconvene in Evjue Commons downstairs.

Roll Call upon reconvening in Evjue Commons:

Members present: Bill Barker, Betty Chewning, Ald. Joe Clausius, Emanuel Scarborough, Ald. Michael Schumacher, and David Wallner

COMMITTEE REPORTS

11520

Conditions for Sale of James Madison Park Property

James Madison Park Planning Committee

A motion was made by Schumacher/Chewning to accept the report ID#11520 on the Conditions for Sale of James Madison Park Property. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

President Barker thanked David Wallner for chairing this committee and providing leadership. He also thanked Ald. Schumacher for serving on the committee. Wallner also conveyed his appreciation to Dan Rolfs of Planning and Development for all of his assistance. He reported the Committee met 6-7 times and finally reached an agreement on the three houses along Gorham Street and the Lincoln School property. Much time was spent discussing the Lincoln School proposal and in the end it was determined that the land under the building should not be sold. There were public hearings with lots of input that included the preservation of the homes. They also heard from people who cared about the park itself. There were three downtown alders plus Ald. Schumacher on the committee. The vote was 4 to 1 in favor of selling the three houses and keeping the Lincoln School property. As Chair he did not vote, but supported selling the Lincoln School property although that did not pass.

Schumacher added that there were sensitive feelings about the property and James Madison Park as a whole. The park does need some changes and renovation and the hope is that some of the money will go to the park if the houses are able to be sold. In the end, the Committee recognized that selling the land under Lincoln School didn't make sense from a business perspective in this economic climate. There was also the issue of combining such valuable property at the lake with an already existing building structure that might be converted into condominiums that in the future would provide a substantially higher value for lakeside condos. There is also the philosophical issue of selling parkland, especially parkland fronting a lake that in the future will be even more precious. He understood Chair Wallner's concerns and at one point he thought selling the land under Lincoln School made sense but in the end he felt that the decision reached by the Committee was proper. He believed that the members of the Committee listened to the neighborhood groups, reviewed the data and were very supportive of enhancing James Madison Park. If a purchaser is found for one or more of the houses, the dwelling only would be purchased and the land under it would be leased for a period of 66 years. At

the end of the lease the Common Council could decide to sell the land under the houses, however, that should not be construed as a precursor to a future sale.

President Barker was pleased to see that the houses would be sold and would be allowed to remain in the park to live out their useful lives. He believes that is the right thing to do and agrees with the Lincoln School result as well. His concern about selling the houses now is that they would be sold as distressed properties at the bottom of the worst real estate market and won't get anything for them. He is sympathetic with Ald. Konkel's idea of perhaps using the Collins House to serve a public use. He suggested the three houses be combined into some sort of public institute setting. If the dwellings are sold individually, it will be difficult to have a single standard of care for them. Some type of sustainability proposal would fit with the Mayor's efforts on promoting a greener city. Schumacher believed President Barker's suggestion was doable and suggested it be included in the Park Commission action on this item.

Dan Rolfs spoke about the next steps in this process. A new committee would need to be established that would deal with the disposal of surplus property. It would make recommendations to the Park Commission on how to deal with the four properties. The creation of a surplus property committee is necessary in order to dispose of the properties and have them sold. That committee will be charged with creating guidelines for the disposal of the properties and will look for requests for proposals for the use and reuse of these properties. The guidelines could be the same as those stated in the report or the Committee could modify those guidelines. The Park Commission could also set additional guidelines. It is also possible that one or two members of the Park Commission would serve on that Surplus Committee. They would then come before various bodies in the city, including the Board of Estimates and Park Commission, with their final report. Proposals would be received, reviewed, and awarded by the Committee. The selected entity would be awarded the opportunity to acquire the properties with the conditions as set forth in the proposal.

If the charge of the Committee was to dispose of the properties, including the land under Lincoln School, they would have the ability to recommend that. However, that recommendation would have to come back to the Park Commission.

Wallner added that the Committee had talked about various public uses for the Collins House and felt that the language was broad enough to allow for many different options for the three parcels. He hopes the properties can be sold before something so bad happens that we won't be able to sell them. Schumacher commented that finding buyers for the houses will be very difficult. These are tough economic conditions, the buildings are historic and their primary value is their location. It will be a very unique buyer and the Surplus Committee and city will have to work closely with a prospective buyer who has the resources.

Chewning appreciated that the large majority of the Committee agreed not to sell the land under Lincoln School. She hopes very strongly that that portion of the recommendation is not altered.

Finally it was noted that it is very difficult to find grants to bring historical buildings up to a certain level to make them more desirable.

The motion was again stated. A motion was made by Schumacher/Chewning to accept the Report of the James Madison Park Planning Committee on the Conditions for Sale of the James Madison Park Property. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Olbrich Botanical Society Minutes of November 18, 2008 Meeting

A motion was made by Chewning/Schumacher to accept the Minutes of the November 18, 2008 meeting of the Olbrich Botanical Society. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Warner Park Community Recreation Center Minutes of September 25, 2008 Advisory Committee Meeting

A motion was made by Wallner/Schumacher to accept the Minutes of the September 25, 2008 meeting of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Committee. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARK COMMISSION

No additional report.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS

Written Report

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

Informational Items

Superintendent Briski reported that the annual survey of parks users has been tabulated and an excellent to good rating was received across the board. A list of the special events already scheduled for 2009 was provided. There are lots of great events coming to Madison's parks and the Mall Concourse this coming year. The January Parks Newsletter highlights winter activities and recognizes the employees of the month and employees who have retired.

CORRESPONDENCE, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES

Request from Caroline Purcell and Nick Lynch of Capri Events to host a US Women's Racing Series 5/10k Run/Walk at Warner Park on May 10, 2009.

Scarborough called attention to the statement about the increasing number of special events scheduled for Warner Park and the concern of Parks staff that some of those events make it difficult for the general public and other park users to gain access to Warner Park. He noted that Warner Park has 16 large special events and Warner Beach has 5 events, Olin Park has 9 events and Vilas Park has 7 events. Superintendent Briski reported that Parks staff review how many events will be held at a particular location and the size of event as well as impacts on the neighborhood. He also communicates that information to the alders in the area prior to the request coming to the Park Commission so that initial concerns can be addressed. Ald./Commissioner Schumacher added that all of the Mallards games and the football, soccer and softball games that occur almost every day are not listed on that special event sheet. The problem is that people who want to use the Community Recreation Center cannot gain access to the Center and it is especially difficult for the seniors who want to use the Center. Additionally, he hears from constituents that Lakeview Hills absorbs a lot of noise from these large events. Superintendent Briski reported that the alders recognize that Parks staff does a good job of identifying noise, the opening and closing of streets so they are not blocked off for the public and other needed conditions for each event.

A motion was made by Scarborough/Chewning to approve this request based upon sponsor's compliance with the recommendations set forth by the Park Commission. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Request from Marylou Grzadzielewski of Wisconsin Youth Company, Inc. to host a Winter Skill Games Event at Elver Park on February 9 through 12, 2009.

A motion was made by Scarborough/Schumacher to approve this request based upon sponsor's compliance with the recommendations set forth by the Park Commission. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Correspondence from Bill Provencher of the Madison Pond Hockey Association requesting discussion of issues regarding city ice rinks.

A motion was made by Schumacher/Clausius to refer the correspondence from Bill Provencher of the Madison Pond Hockey Association requesting discussion of issues regarding city ice rinks to the February Park Commission meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12456

To authorize the Parks Superintendent to enter into an agreement with the Wisconsin Youth Company, Inc. for a special enclosed shelter permit for Elver Park Shelter #2 from December 2008 through March 2009.

A motion was made by Schumacher, seconded by Clausius, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

A question was asked about the wording that says fees were being waived. Weisinger reported that the waiver of fees was part of the deal that was made

between the Mayor's office and Madison Community Foundation for the \$200,000 grant received by the city for the snow making equipment. Superintendent Briski added that this was a collaboration between the city and the Wisconsin Youth Company to manage youth programs in that shelter. It will be noted that this permit is a partnership between the city and the Wisconsin Youth Company. The fiscal note will reflect "The City's shelter rental fees is its "in-kind" contribution to this project."

A motion was made by Schumacher/Clausius to approve Resolution ID#12456 To authorize the Parks Superintendent to enter into an agreement with the Wisconsin Youth Company, Inc. for a special enclosed shelter permit for Elver Park Shelter #2 from December 2008 through March 2009 with the amended fiscal note. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

[12564](#)

To authorize the City to enter into a three (3) year agreement with the possibility of a three one-year renewal terms with Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) for the non-exclusive use of softball diamonds, baseball fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, golf courses, and cross-country courses in various City parks for MMSD athletic programs. (Various AD's)

A motion was made by Schumacher, seconded by Chewning, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed by voice vote/other. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

[12615](#)

Authorizing the acceptance of a Dedication and Purchase Agreement for the acquisition of the remaining interests of Cherokee Park, Inc. in approximately 48 acres of land located adjacent to Wheeler Road referred to as the Wheeler Open Space Parcel and including agreement on the estimated dedication requirements for the remaining lands that Cherokee Park, Inc. intends to develop and amending the 2008 Parks Capital Budget to authorize the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$90,000 for this acquisition.

A motion was made by Schumacher, seconded by Chewning, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed by voice vote/other. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

[12885](#)

Deaccessioning Original *Effigy Tree* (1991), Wood Carved Sculpture, by Harry Whitehorse and Accepting Ownership of a Bronze Version of *EffigyTree*.

A motion was made by Schumacher, seconded by Clausius, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the MADISON ARTS COMMISSION. The motion passed by voice vote/other. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

[13068](#)

To authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign and execute a three (3) year Renewal Agreement with Madison Football Club, Inc. for priority field scheduling at four (4) soccer fields at Reindahl Community Park in exchange for Madison Football Club, Inc. maintaining said fields.

A motion was made by Schumacher, seconded by Wallner, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by voice vote/other. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

[13078](#)

Authorizing the placement on the April 7, 2009 ballot of a binding referendum question relating to the conveyance of the Garver Feed Mill building and abutting lands to Common Wealth Development, Inc. or its assignees for the purpose of constructing an arts incubator and other associated improvements in Olbrich Park.

A motion was made by Schumacher, seconded by Chewning, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by the following vote:

Speakers on referendum

Registered Speakers, both in support
Marianne Morton of CommonWealth Development
T. R. Loon

There was a brief discussion regarding the conditions that trigger the ordinance on lakeshore projects. This ordinance has been amended to exempt some projects in Vilas Park that pertain to the Zoo. It was suggested that projects in parks that fall under this ordinance should be able to receive an exemption from the Council rather than having to take them to referendum.

President Barker provided the wording that has been suggested to be added to the Referendum language, which is: "after all conditions have been met." Olbrich Botanical Society sent a letter to the Mayor expressing concerns about the referendum language because they were afraid it might give the impression that the city could get around the deed restriction on the building and suggested that a clause be inserted: Shall the City of Madison "upon securing the release of certain deed restrictions" of which there are several (there's a DNR restriction, the Olbrich restriction, and the City also has a restriction and all three read essentially the same). OBS felt those words more accurately reflected the nature of the situation. Schumacher suggested that the word "existing" be used instead of "certain" deed restrictions so everyone understands we are only talking about existing restrictions, not something that could emerge in the future. It will be important to educate people that this will not be another Overture Center, it is not high quality exhibition and performance space but it is affordable working space for artists.

Chewning asked for clarification that the way the wording appears on the Referendum in no way decreases Olbrich Botanical Society's power with their deed restriction. The City Attorney stated that was correct and that what everyone should understand is that there are many conditions on this development and the Referendum is just one of them. There is the issue of land use approval, rezoning, parking and other issues. The Council will also need to approve a development agreement with Common Wealth.

Approval for the placement of the Referendum on the April ballot is needed

from the Park Commission tonight because the Park Commission doesn't meet again until after the deadlines for printing the ballots has passed. The Common Council could, by the end of February, decide to waive the Referendum and could then stop the printing of the ballot. Finally, the Common Council could amend the ordinance so the Referendum isn't necessary but the time frame for that is unknown at this point. It was suggested that the wording in the Preamble of the Referendum could be amended to discuss the deed restrictions.

Ayes: 5 -

Joseph R. Clausius; Michael Schumacher; Betty Chewning; Emanuel Scarbrough and William W. Barker

Noes: 1 -

David L. Wallner

Registered Speakers in support, continued:

Michael Barrett, Neutral on proposal but opposes parking
Ald. Marsha Rummel
Dan Matteson
Dennis Birke
Nancy Ragland
Dick Wagner
Lou Host Jablonski

Schumacher wanted to make sure he understood the underlying issues. He was afraid there might have been some competing interests that could cause problems down the road, but after hearing testimony he does not believe that was the case. He vowed to keep an eye on the process to make sure that none of the agreements are forfeited. He does not like the original ordinance dealing with lakeshore development but that is a separate issue and should be dealt with separately. Common Wealth needs some type of certainty in order to move forward and waiting another year for the Referendum would be detrimental to their planning. Clausius believes this referendum is one of support for the Garver project and sees no problem with it.

A motion was made by Schumacher/Chewning to approve Resolution ID#13078 Authorizing the placement on the April 7, 2009 ballot of a binding referendum question relating to the conveyance of the Garver Feed Mill building and abutting lands to Common Wealth Development, Inc. or its assignees for the purpose of constructing an arts incubator and other associated improvements in Olbrich Park with the language as is. MOTION CARRIED with Wallner voting Nay.

Recess

A brief recess was taken at 10:10 p.m. Meeting reconvened at 10:17 p. m.

Roll Call: Bill Barker, Betty Chewning, Ald. Joe Clausius, Emanuel Scarbrough , Ald. Michael Schumacher, and David Wallner and one vacancy

A motion was made by Schumacher/Chewning to approve items J, K, L and M

as a group. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

[13079](#)

To authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into a three (3) year Agreement between the City of Madison and the Madison Metropolitan School District, Madison School & Community Recreation beginning May 1, 2009 and ending on September 30, 2011 for the operation of a Pontoon Boat Program for persons with disabilities. (AD 2)

A motion was made by Schumacher, seconded by Chewning, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by voice vote/other. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

[13084](#)

To authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into a \$110,000 contract with Plunkett Raysich Architects for architectural services to complete the construction of the Tenney Park Shelter. (AD #2)

A motion was made by Schumacher, seconded by Chewning, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed by voice vote/other. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

[13088](#)

To amend the 2008 Parks Division Capital Budget to include reimbursement from the trade-in and sale of Parks older equipment.

A motion was made by Schumacher, seconded by Chewning, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed by voice vote/other. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

[13133](#)

To amend the 2008 Parks Division Capital Budget to accept reimbursement from the insurance fund for the replacement of irrigation controllers damaged by the high waters this past summer.

A motion was made by Schumacher, seconded by Chewning, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed by voice vote/other. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Olbrich Park Land Use Plan

Superintendent Briski advised that this item was placed on the agenda because of the Resolution discussing the need for the Referendum for the Garver project. This plan has been discussed at a number of meetings and the latest revisions to the land use plan were distributed to the Commission. A letter from MSCR was also distributed. This is a land use plan and the Parks Division has been working on the plan under that premise. The planned use zones were presented at the public input sessions and to the Park

Commission. Those various uses will be fine tuned as work is begun on those particular aspects of the plan and those components will be folded into a site master plan. The process has been to identify planning zones that will be designed when funding and support is in place. The staff's recommendations from the December Park Commission meeting were to expand the gardens approximately 9.8 acres across the creek along Atwood, to remove two softball fields and to work with MSCR to identify other locations for softball. Possible locations are Reindahl and Demetral fields. Superintendent Briski wanted to be clear about the fact that this is not going to happen next year or even 5 years from now, but is more than 10 to possibly 15 years out. The softball fields will remain until that time. Parks staff has a commitment to work with MSCR to identify locations and in 15 years those locations may change. There is a commitment to keep fields on the near Eastside of Madison. Parks will work on making those field improvements the best they can be based on the input Parks has received about the fields at Olbrich.

The North Platte has space dedicated for the Garver buildings and parking in and around the building space, taking into consideration the testimony to reduce parking. The North Platte space would contain natural landscaping and the very important component of the connection to the Creek would remain. Approximately three acres for some garden maintenance areas was also identified. The bike trail linkage will be deferred until that trail system is developed.

During the public meetings there was much testimony about the desire for an eastside dog park. That discussion has continued with a separate neighborhood dog park coalition. One of the top priorities in identifying locations was Olbrich Park. This is still in the planning process and a dog park in Olbrich could still be included. There was some interest in an area of the North Platte to allow access to water.

Superintendent Briski clarified that there have been at least two public listening sessions this past summer, a Special Park Commission meeting held at Olbrich Botanical Center in October as well as discussion at regular Park Commission meetings.

Registered Speakers:

Kathy Esposito, Supports Dog park
Mark McFadden,
Lou Host Jablonski, Opposes City Plan
Dick Wagner, Supports City Plan
Ron Arm, Opposes Removal of softball fields
Paul Williams, Supports City Plan
Don Matteson, Supports City Plan
Anne Rogers-Rhyne, Supports City Plan
Michael Barrett, Opposes City Plan
Donna Sievert,
Marsha Rummel, Asked Parks Division to take plan to Nei. Assns.
Dennis Birke – not speaking, Supports City Plan

A motion was made by Chewning/Scarborough to request Parks staff to follow the request from Alder Rummel to present the Land Use Plan to the Neighborhood Associations and to gather input from the Neighborhood

Associations and refer action on this item to the March meeting.

Commissioners voiced their opinions regarding the need for additional meetings on this issue. Some did not support the motion because there have been several meetings where there has been neighborhood input. This is a land use plan and there will be lots of additional planning and public input that will take place over a long period of time. It was noted that a decision is needed so that Common Wealth and Olbrich Gardens can move forward with their plans and fundraising. There are all kinds of other parks but to recreate the botanical gardens in another park defeats the purpose of what the botanical gardens really are. Other Commissioners felt there was no harm in waiting until March as was proposed at the December Commission meeting. A compromise of one additional neighborhood meeting was made. .

Chewning responded that Ald. Rummel came up with some interesting, creative ideas and she believes they need to be explored because the current plan is not interesting and creative. She feels Parks staff need to go to the neighborhood meetings and bring back a new plan based on what they hear at those meetings.

President Barker reminded Commissioners that the main issue is what to do with Olbrich Gardens in this land use plan, not the nuts and bolts of every detail but general uses as shown in this broad scope plan. Chewning continued to state that it would be very interesting to incorporate these new ideas into the plan. Scarbrough asked members not to bicker and draw other potential parks into the mix but to look at the Olbrich Park plan that is before the Commission at this time. The Commission is charged with finding a plan where as many uses as possible can be accommodated. These various groups have to trust the Commission to do what they believe is correct.

The question was called. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Schumacher/Scarbrough the meeting adjourned at 11:25 p.m.