



City of Madison
Meeting Minutes - Final
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

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

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

6:30 PM

1625 Northport Dr. (WPCRC)

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Madison Board of Park Commissioners was held on Wednesday, June 14, 2006 at Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Drive. President Barker called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Ald. Paul E. Skidmore, William Barker, Stephen A. Webster, Betty Chewning, Emanuel Scarbrough and Betty N. MacDonald

Excused: Ald. Santiago Rosas

Parks staff present: James Morgan, Bill Bauer, Elinor Riley, Roberta Sladky, Donald Studesville, Brad Weisinger, Si Widstrand, LaVonne LaFave

Alder present: Ald. Zach Brandon

WPCRC Member: JoAnn Walker, Chair of Committee

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Chewning/MacDonald to approve the Minutes of the May 10, 2006 regular meeting of the Park Commission. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Olbrich Botanical Society

A motion was made by Chewning/Skidmore to accept the Minutes of the April 18, 2006 meeting of the Olbrich Botanical Society. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

Staff Report on Garver Reuse

Widstrand reported Parks/Olbrich are working to get this project back on track. Olbrich Park, Olbrich Gardens and the Garver property have a long history. Roberta Sladky, the new Director at Olbrich Gardens has not been involved in meetings on this project with the OBS Board or with neighbors or the neighborhood partnership group. He acknowledged he also had not been involved with the OBS Board or the neighborhood partnership meetings. As the project resumes, the goal is to provide everyone involved with a common base

of knowledge, documents and history in order to move forward. A brief chronology of the Garver area and some of the major planning events up to the current time was included in the packets. As additional items are brought forward, they will be added to the background information. This information will be presented at the Olbrich Botanical Society Board meeting next week.

It has been 9 years since the Garver property was acquired. The city purchased the surrounding property of approximately 17 acres from the CDA. OBS raised the money to purchase the Garver property comprising the building and 5 acres surrounding it and donated it to the city. The most recent thing that happened is that OBS donated funding for a Reuse Study. The results of that study were presented to, and accepted by the Park Commission in July 2005. The Park Commission's recommendation was to go ahead with the city process that had been dictated and to solicit a RFP and find potential reusers for the building. The city policy for that process includes the appointment of a committee by the Mayor. That committee determines the criteria and evaluates all proposals, both of which must be approved by the Park Commission and Common Council. While the Committee has not been appointed by the Mayor, everyone agrees that time is short to get proposals back for reuse of building because of its deteriorated state. Potential candidates would like to get this process going.

The other part of the planning process that has been heavily debated, is what comes first, the building user or the master plan. Answers to what uses are compatible with garden activities and require very little parking should provide guidance to go ahead with proposals for the use of the building. Money has been included in next year's budget to conduct a planning process to review the Master Plan but Parks would like to begin the other portion first. The objective is to have a preliminary candidate selected before jumping into replanning the Master Plan. The Master Plan review may involve areas beyond the immediate Garver property.

The grant request before Senator Herb Kohl would provide for a roof on the building. There may be some flexibility for other work to keep it from further deteriorating. The status of the award won't be known until the end of the year. Ideally, obtaining the grant money and the selection of the user will happen in the same time frame so the money can all be put into the project. The only way to get money pumped into the building is through the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits which require that there be a private business partner that will be able to benefit from the tax credits and a non-profit that will be one of the users. There are deed restrictions on different portions of the property. The Real Estate section of the Planning and Development Department will be involved in that portion of the project together with Parks staff.

It is anticipated the committee will not be appointed or functional until September or October and the bulk of their work will occur over winter. Criteria should be ready for approval in spring 2007 with actual work beginning about a year from now. The Park Commission will be involved in the discussions before it goes to the Common Council.

B. Long Range Planning Committee

A motion was made by Chewing/Skidmore to accept the Minutes of the November 8, 2005 and May 8, 2006 meetings of the Long Range Planning Committee. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

C. Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Committee

A motion was made by Barker/Chewning to accept the Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Committee Minutes of April 7, 2005 Meeting. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Chewning to accept the Timeline of the WPCRC Advisory Committee Tenure, approval of Option B for the restructure of the WPCRC Advisory Committee and approval to rename the WPCRC Advisory Committee to the WPCRC Citizen Guidance Committee.

At this point President Barker relinquished the gavel to Vice President Scarbrough. Barker reported he attended the meeting on May 17, 2006 and voted for Option B. However, he believes that this does not get to the core of what is troubling this committee. This is a temporary solution. The problem is the institutional members of the committee are more focused on representing their own programs than looking at what is good for the building as a whole. He recognized how difficult it is to put aside the perspective of their respective committees to look at the larger picture. He also believes it is imperative that their perspectives be included, they do not need to be voting members and could serve as ex officio members. The committee could then be filled with citizens. While this is his recommendation he suggested this be referred for a month to give those institutional committees an opportunity to discuss this proposal. Skidmore agreed with the comments that were made. He supports making the institutional members ex officio members.

Superintendent Morgan noted that the issues had been very well defined. It becomes a process question of how to deal with the issues and whether to wait a month to allow those members an opportunity to speak. Weisinger added that nothing good comes easy and he will under the guidance of the recommendations of the Park Commission.

A motion was then made by Chewning/MacDonald to refer the motion to accept the Timeline of the WPCRC Advisory Committee Tenure, approval of Option B for the restructure of the WPCRC Advisory Committee and approval to rename the WPCRC Advisory Committee to the WPCRC Citizen Guidance Committee for one month. MOTION CARRIED unanimously. The gavel was returned to President Barker who resumed the chair. President Barker clarified that this is a Park Commission initiative. It was also noted that at prior Park Commission meetings it was apparent that citizens are the ones really interested in what is going on at the Center.

V. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARK COMMISSION

President Barker stated he and his family had the great pleasure of attending the pre-opening of the Goodman Pool on Saturday, June 12, 2006. The people who worked to make the pool a reality were present and acknowledged. Bill Bauer was also presented with a plaque in recognition of all of his hard work.

Superintendent Morgan interjected that the Madison Parks Foundation had awarded more than \$15,900 in scholarships for swim lessons, coupon admissions for social service families and stacks of coupons have been distributed to social service organizations. There is a small amount of scholarship money remaining for this year.

All of the swim lessons are full and tracking indicates participants are coming from all areas of the city. The Alliant Energy scholarship money is funding some of the swim lessons. It was noted that many very low-income families haven't applied for scholarships because they aren't aware of the process. Further outreach will be necessary to get that information out to those who need it most. Scholarships have been given to families whose children receive free or reduced lunches and adults who are SSDI or mental health care. There are different circumstances for each application that has been approved and the information provided remains confidential. He also noted that he has given numerous interviews to the media regarding both the availability of scholarships for needy families and the need for additional money to fund the scholarship program. The Shelley Glover Foundation is sponsoring a fundraiser in July to add to the scholarship funds.

President Barker also noted he attended the Olbrich Partnership meeting and was impressed with the process.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS

A. Written Report of Supervisor's Activities

A motion was made by Skidmore/Scarborough to approve the written report. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously. Superintendent Morgan summarized the written report by stating it relays the sense of stress his staff are feeling. They understand the low mow zones but are reaching a point where they are unhappy with the result because they are no longer performing to their standards.

B. Revised Park Mowing Plans - Neighborhood Associations contacts by Widstrand

He recognized the great job that Si Widstrand has been doing in mediating with the neighborhoods, tweaking the mowing plans to gain neighborhood support. Superintendent Morgan is hearing many good comments from different neighborhood groups. Not everyone is happy but the tweaking of mowing plans has created compromise from many groups. Mowing of boulevards has been increased.

C. Pool Opening Report and Brochures

The pool opening went exceptionally well. There was one rescue on the first regular day of the pool season. The lifeguards did a good job. Pass sales are going well. One example of success is the concession revenue is way above the projections. On Monday there were about 650 swimmers and concession revenue was approximately \$1,300. There are a few people expressing concerns about the types of food but spoilage on salads and fruit make them cost prohibitive to offer. He then played a video of the progress of the pool. The pool is another jewel in the crown of Madison parks.

He reported that every project needs a "go to" person and on this project that person was Bill Bauer. He was recognized at the Grand Opening in front of the donors who were present, and tonight he wants to take a minute and recognize Bill before the Park Commissioners. He then presented Bill with a giant chocolate chip cookie to recognize his hard work and dedication in making this project successful.

A motion was made by MacDonald/Skidmore to express their unanimous appreciation to Bill Bauer for his commitment in making the construction of the Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Pool successful. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously with applause.

Superintendent Morgan then related an incident that happened at the pool. There was a problem with one of the large umbrellas and Bauer contacted the company to come and fix it. When the representative of the umbrella company arrived he called back to their main office and asked to have a photographer sent over because he felt a picture of the pool with their umbrellas should be the next cover for their catalog.

D. Park Summer Tour on August 9

Superintendent Morgan reminded everyone the annual parks summer tour will be on August 9 in place of the regularly scheduled Park Commission meeting.

An explanation of the Madison Measures initiative introduced by the Mayor was given. This initiative is to clearly state objectives for city departments, such as area tree trimming on a 7-year cycle. In order to accomplish this program, the resources to accomplish it are identified, including the number of employees necessary, the age and size of trees, the equipment needed, etc. It's a method to set standards and get buy-in from the Mayor and Council on Parks priorities.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES

- A. [03351](#) Authorizing the Mayor and the City Clerk to execute an Agreement with Blue Plate Catering, Inc. for exclusive alcohol beverage services at Warner Park Community Recreation Center and Olbrich Botanical Gardens from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008, with the possibility of two successive two year renewal terms.

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

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER

- B. [03437](#) Authorizing the closure of the Warner Park lagoon and its connecting waterway to Lake Mendota during the 2006 Rhythm and Booms celebration.

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

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER

- C. [03657](#) To set forth the Agreement between the City of Madison and Dane County regarding Lyckberg Park and the surrounding area.

A motion was made by Chewing, seconded by Ald. Skidmore, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES Superintendent Morgan presented a map of Lyckberg Park, the Alliant Energy Center, Quann Park dog park, tennis courts and community gardens. Approximately 5 years ago, Dane County Expo employees created a master plan for Alliant Energy Center that eliminated Lyckberg Park. There was opposition to that plan by the residents. Dane County is now proposing that the area off the parking lot become a city park. The problem for the Parks Division is that, since the initial proposal five years ago, Dane County has let the park deteriorate. The lights and toilets don't work and the park is a haven for drug addicts and other social problems. It has gotten so bad the neighborhood has pressured the alder to make it a city park. It will take almost \$400,000 to bring it up to city park standards. There are no funds for this renovation and Parks has gone on record opposing the transfer unless there is funding to rehabilitate the park. Parks would love to take the funds for the playground area and put it into the Quann Park playground nearby. Dane County/Alliant knows it can't have a portion of the park for parking unless they placate the neighborhood, which is mostly city residents, with green space. The real need is for the football/soccer field area that Dane County wants for its parking lot. The neighborhood wants a green space buffer between their neighborhood and the Alliant Center. They know that if it becomes a city park it would be taken care of. It was noted this is an extremely diverse neighborhood but does not get much help from either the county or city. There are lots of requests for soccer fields in this area. If that area is paved over, the citizens who live there won't have the same access to playing. The motion passed by acclamation.

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fields. When the South Madison plan was prepared a couple of years ago, the desire was to preserve that green space. The initial resolution was to have the city just accept the park as is and take it over. Parks will need support to ensure the funding is part of the package.

- D. [03679](#) Authorizing the grant of a permanent limited easement and a temporary construction easement to American Transmission Company for an underground electric transmission line in a portion of the City's East Rail Corridor between East Washington Avenue and East Johnson Street. (2nd & 12th AD)

Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS Registered Non-Speaker:
Mary (Gigi) Holland in opposition

Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS Registered Non-Speaker:
Mary (Gigi) Holland in opposition

- E. [03841](#) SUBSTITUTE - Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an Agreement with Madison Fireworks Fund, Inc., to provide an annual Independence Day fireworks celebration, commonly known as Rhythm & Booms, at Madison's Warner Park, for the years 2007 through 2011.

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

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER

Registered Speakers:
Deb McCue - in support and available for questions
Bob Boomsme - Berkeley Oaks Nei. Assn. support
Lendall Alston oppose
Gigi (Mary) Holland - not speaking oppose
Michael Basford Neutral

A Berkeley Oaks Neighborhood Association representative requested that the fire department put signs by every fire hydrant so people don't park in front of them, asked for police to be positioned around the neighborhood back streets and asked that there be porta-potties for the people who sit on the hill at Berkeley Park.

Skidmore noted that Rhythm & Booms is used as a model of how a good large private party can be run. The private organization puts up a bond, puts up insurance, and steps up to the plate to organize it. Yes, it's a huge party but there is more security and safety at Rhythm & Booms than at Halloween or the Mifflin

Street Block Party. It's not perfect but the group is willing to work on it. Alder Brandon added that amendments to the agreement were made at the Board of Estimates meeting this past week, including an acknowledgment of the huge contribution the city provides. The Resolution also increased the payment to the city, requires Madison Fireworks Fund (MFF) to meet with the surrounding neighborhood associations and area businesses and will work on a sustainability plan in the event MFF decides to stop producing the event. He agreed that this is a model that contains the framework that should be used for both Mifflin and Halloween.

Commissioners remarked they believe the culprit is alcohol and suggested that beer sales be over at 9:00 p.m. instead of extending beer sales later. It could be a great celebration and neighbors wouldn't have to contend with some of the social issues that are occurring. They recognized it won't be easy to pull back the time because alcohol is pervasive in our society but the issue should be addressed. They believe that Rhythm & Booms is a well-organized family event as opposed to Mifflin or Halloween and acknowledge that there are issues in the neighborhoods.

- F. Take a Stake in the Lakes 2006 Informational Postcard

This item was informational.

- G. Request from Nicole Signer of Eternal Productions to host the Madison Electronic Music Festival in Warner Park on August 12, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Chewning to approve the request from Nicole Signer of Eternal Productions to host the Madison Electronic Music Festival in Warner Park on August 12, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

- H. Request from Shana Martin of Huntington's Disease Society of America Great Lakes Regional Office to host the Midwest Logrolling Championships for Huntington's Disease in Wingra Park on June 24, 2006.

**Registered Speaker:
Shana Martin in support**

A motion was made by Skidmore/Chewning to approve the request from Shana Martin of Huntington's Disease Society of America Great Lakes Regional Office to host the Midwest Logrolling Championships for Huntington's Disease in Wingra Park on June 24, 2006. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

- I. Request from Madison Mallards to host the Trek Bikes Annual Sales Summer Outings in Warner Park baseball field on August 17 and 19, 2006

A motion was made by Skidmore/Chewning to approve the request from Madison Mallards to host the Trek Bikes Annual Sales Summer Outings in Warner Park baseball field on August 17 and 19, 2006. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

**Registered Speaker, available for questions:
Vern Stenman in support**

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2007 Preliminary Capital Budget

Widstrand reported that the handout included in the packet highlighted the changes that were made since the last meeting. The tram and maintenance path at Olbrich is part of the accessibility program for the Gardens that include wheelchairs, scooters, and walkers. Olbrich is applying for a grant for the trams, a year of operation and part of the path segment. The sum of \$20,000 was added for the Olbrich Master Plan review in 2007 to work with a consultant. Line 7, Cherokee Marsh, additional estimates were received to rebuild the boardwalk. He suggested the Commission should tour the site prior to a meeting. The advantage of having a boardwalk in the Marsh is it provides a way out into the marsh you can't otherwise get to. It is also a teaching tool for teachers. There is a line item for fencing to help control encroachment issues. The line item for Lake View Park restroom remodeling was moved to 2009 because of a backlog of building projects. Line 31 covers additional Starkweather trail and landscaping improvements. Line 53 is for the next phase of paving at Reindahl Park is recommended to move to 2008. The bridge in Heistand Park on line 76 may move to 2008 in order to have the bike trail system funded first. The Warner Stadium bleach replacement has been moved up from 2009 because the Mallards are interested in putting together a proposal for funding and development and it makes sense to do it all at the same time. Line 68 will allow Parks to begin putting in more shelters in the 10-20 acre area parks for picnic activities. It would involve sun shelters in conjunction with playgrounds using shade structures like those at the new pool since new parks have no shade trees around the playground areas.

At Heistand Park the neighbors are recommending removal of the tennis courts and a shelter be put in that site and that at Kennedy Park two additional tennis courts be added which would be conducive to league play. There are two courts at Heritage Park that are in poor condition and could be eliminated if two courts are added at Kennedy.

Line 37 is for the matching funds that are usually used up by September. People are going out and privately fundraising and that is matched with the People for Parks money. It is being spent in larger chunks on larger projects as people get excited about their parks. It was suggested this sum be increased if possible.

B. Fitchburg Commons Development Plan - Road Crossing Parkland

Widstrand provided a brief introduction together with a map showing the Madison park and road. This large commercial development is located in the City of Fitchburg between McKee Road and Nesbitt Road. The extension of Fitchrona Road up to the site would cut across a corner of Quarry Cove Park in the City of Madison. The original plan was to put the road through a wooded area and develop the property to the south of the road. When the proposal was brought before the Park Commission earlier this year the Commissioners were not in favor of the development on the south side of the road and asked that the proposal be reconsidered. The current proposal is to leave the road in relatively the same location with the rock outcropping along the hillside and leave the wooded area intact and not develop the property on the south side of the road. There will be a 10-foot multi-use path along the north side of the road that will

also have bike path access through the north side of Quarry Cove Park. There had been discussion by Fitchburg of the merits of bringing Sandstone Drive into the project.

Registered Speakers:

NAME

Jim Bricker in support

Jim Spahr in support

Andrew Carr in opposition

Ald. Zach Brandon Neutral

The developer, Bricker as engineer, noted the connection at Sandstone isn't needed and has not been considered as part of the project. There will be a deed restriction for the outlet (the wooded parcel) that it will be permanent open space. Additionally there will be a permanent open space easement over the western portion with a berm that is heavily landscaped. Alder Brandon thanked the Park Commission for pushing to save the trees on the south side of the road. He asked that the Park Commission support the easement and recommend to the Common Council that the green space is included as had been specified this evening. He trusts the developer will not take the green space away and that they will replant the trees when the berm is built. He trusts that the developer will not request the extension of Sandstone and added that his neighborhood will not approve that extension.

A motion was made by Chewing/Skidmore to approve the revised road and open space plan as presented, with the requirement that the proposal be returned to the Park Commission if there is a change in the green space area that was presented this evening. It was further moved that this issue be forwarded to the City Engineer and City Attorney to draft the resolution approving the revised road to include a recommendation of approval for the open space/green space concept as presented. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Marlborough Park Master Plan

Widstrand stated that over the last 3-5 years, Superintendent Morgan has been working with the Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Association on several issues in Marlborough Park. They have done restoration work and established a Park Watch Program. Planning work has been done in Allied Drive. It is timely to review the entire Master Plan for Marlborough Park. There have been neighborhood meetings where suggestions were presented to items they had identified as problems, such as the heavily used soccer field on the east side of the park, and no parking lot so parking occurs on the narrow streets throughout the neighborhood. There is a softball field with a backstop and outfield on the west side of the park that could be changed into the primary soccer field that could then change the main access into the park. The current field would become the backup soccer field and games on both fields would not be scheduled at the same time.

The second issue is the expansion of the gardens. The gardens are in a management transition from the neighbors that were running it to Community Action Coalition. The gardeners would like to expand the gardens and an

additional area has been identified by Parks as suitable for that expansion.

The neighborhood is not ready to commit to a proposal to create a parking lot near the new soccer field and wants to try street parking near the west entrance. There is a concern about accessible parking spots that would have access to the paths. Most of the neighborhood agrees with that solution.

Registered Speakers:

NAME

Stephan Uselman in support

Gerald Morovitz supports new soccer field; opposes widening bike path

Janet Parker, CAC in support

The Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Parks/Recreation Committee stated they were in favor of the new soccer field on the west side of the park as the primary soccer field to be used 3 out of 5 years and the existing soccer field to be designated as the alternate soccer field.

Based on the neighborhood comments tonight and previously, Widstrand recommended that master plan be approved with the following notes. Expand the west softball field to be the primary soccer field and try to have it used at least 3 out of 5 years while the other is not scheduled for field use (only one field will be scheduled in any given year to allow the other to recover). Do not build a parking lot on the west side of the park, but anticipate that more park users will park on the streets west of the park. Seek permission for accessible parking spaces in the street near the path entrance. Expand the gardens no more than the maximum shown on the proposed master plan, with expansion to occur only as there is the need from residents of the Allied-Dunn's Marsh area.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Chewning to approve the Marlborough Park Master Plan. MOTION CARRIED unanimously. A motion was made by Skidmore/Scarborough to approve the Marlborough Garden Lease. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Scarborough reported to the Park Commission that the people who live around Penn Park are concerned about the activities occurring there. MSCR did not schedule activities in the park because they thought the Boys and Girls Club and Mount Zion were scheduling activities there. In 2007 MSCR will work on scheduling activities there.

X. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Chewning/Skidmore the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.