



City of Madison

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

Wednesday, September 1, 2010

6:30 PM 1625 Northport Dr. # (Warner Park Community Recreation
Center)

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 6 -
Madelyn D. Leopold; Joseph R. Clausius; Paul E. Skidmore; William W.
Barker; David L. Wallner and Emanuel Scarbrough

Excused: 1 -
Betty Chewning

The regular meeting of the Madison Board of Park Commissioners was held on Wednesday, September 1, 2010 at Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Avenue. President Barker called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Parks staff present: Kevin Briski, Steve Doniger, Russ Hefty, Eric Knepp, Jim Weinstock, LaVonne LaFave.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Skidmore/Scarbrough to approve the Minutes of the July 14 and August 11, 2010 regular Meetings of the Park Commission.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Registered speakers:

Lori Chadli (not speaking)	Opposes killing of resident Canada geese in Warner Park
D. Kester	Concerns about Bike Event on Oct. 31 Web soil survey of Warner Park History of Warner Park Informational items (copy attached in Legislative File #20070)

IV. REPORTS

Olbrich Botanical Society

A motion was made by Wallner/Leopold to accept the Minutes of June 15, 2010 Meeting of Olbrich Botanical Society. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Subcommittee

A motion was made by Clausius/Skidmore to accept the Minutes of the May 27, 2010 meeting of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Subcommittee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

President of the Park Commission.

President Barker reported that Madelyn Leopold will serve on the Habitat Stewardship Committee/Tree Board. He noted that the Parks Division is responsible for more conservation park acreage than the Arboretum and is scattered over many locations.

Superintendent of Parks

Written Report of Supervisor's Activities

A motion was made by Wallner/Skidmore to accept the Written Report of Supervisor's Activities. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Newsletter will be e-mailed directly to Park Commissioners next week. It will include stories from Ride the Drive.

The second Ride the Drive event for 2010 was held last week-end with Lance Armstrong representing the city. There were nearly 50,000 people participating in the event. He recognized there were many Parks staff and volunteers who put the event together. He and Steve Doniger will be presenting information on this event to the NRPA in late October.

The 2011 meeting dates were included in the packets.

The August employee of the month is Michael Hannes. He works in West Forestry and has a tremendous work ethic. The July employee of the month was Dan Jauch from Warner Park Community Recreation Center.

Commissioners who were in attendance congratulated Parks on the Ride the Drive event. They, and their families and friends, had lots of fun.

Commissioners asked about the water level/lake level issues in regard to whether the DNR would be making changes to the lake level orders. The DNR has stated that just because the city made a request, the DNR does not need a public forum to discuss the issue. Hefty reported that he is trying to determine how much restriction in flow is caused by the railroad bridges by Cherokee. Superintendent Briski added that there have been communications between the city, county and state and there will be more review by the county and state. There is a heightened sense of the lake levels

Finally, on the Facilities Maintenance tasks for September is "continue occupancy sensor installation." This is part of Parks sustainability plan to install sensors to turn lights on and off instead of using switches. In the past

staff have turned lights on at the beginning of the season and they are not turned off until the end of the season, now sensors will automatically turn lights on when they detect movement and turn them off after there is no movement for a period of time.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. [19169](#) CHARTER ORDINANCE Creating Section 8.32 of the Madison General Ordinances to establish rules for the treatment of lost or abandoned property found on public property.

This Charter Ordinance was **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO PLACE ON FILE WITHOUT PREJUDICE**

It was noted that this issue came before the Park Commission approximately two years ago in the form of a resolution. Commissioners requested a response from the sponsoring alder and when none was forthcoming, they voted to place the resolution on file. This Charter Ordinance appears to be a way to get around state statutes. Commissioners questioned how the language in the ordinance would translate into staff time for compliance since it appears it would be expensive and cumbersome. Superintendent Briski reported that when Parks employees find something left in a park, they look for some type of identifying features and attempt to contact the party. If the item is of value it is taken to the police department where they can catalog it in. Staff make note of what they found and its disposition so if someone calls, the information can be relayed. Many times items are set up to the Parks administrative offices where it is held in a "Lost and Found" box. There have not been problems with this method.

A motion was made by Wallner/Skidmore to place Ordinance ID#19169 CHARTER ORDINANCE Creating Section 8.32 of the Madison General Ordinances to establish rules for the treatment of lost or abandoned property found on public property on file. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- B. [19749](#) Hearing on Appeal of Encroachment Violation in Warner Park by Alice Matranga

Superintendent Briski reported this issue, together with several others, was originally brought before the Park Commission this past June after it had been brought to the attention of the Parks Division. The Parks Division has tried to work through the - mowing in a no mow area - issue with a common sense approach. At the meeting in June it was the overall sense from the Park Commission that the encroachments presented that evening were not acceptable. The violator subsequently requested a hearing to appeal the encroachment violation. The Park Commission is the body that hears those appeals.

Mrs. Matranga has been mowing approximately 140 feet into Warner Park. The Parks Division has been working with Mrs. Matranga for more than two years in an effort to get her to stop this mowing encroachment into a managed meadow area.

Registered speakers

Mike Rynes – supports mowing
Mike Fuss – supports mowing
Erin Curtis – letter – opposes mowing
Jim Carrier - opposes mowing
Michael Rewey - opposes mowing
Alice Matranga Neighbor – letter - opposes mowing
Trish O’Kane - opposes mowing

It was learned that there is approximately 50 to 60 feet from her house to the back of her yard. A former member of the Board of Public Works indicated they have dealt with these types of encroachments in greenways and they never allowed the encroachments. Park Commissioners stated that mowing on parkland is one thing, cutting down trees is another. Hefty stated he found evidence of trees being trimmed and cut down but did not personally see chemicals applied, he only heard neighbors speak of it. Commissioners felt the mowing should not be allowed to continue. The Parks Division cannot be responsible for every citizen who has an allergy problem. It was also pointed out it would become a liability issue if it were allowed to continue. Private citizens cannot appropriate public property for their own use.

A motion was made by Scarbrough/Wallner to deny the appeal. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Superintendent Briski stated that Parks staff would monitor the situation. No further mowing on parkland is allowed.

- C. [19747](#) Request of Matt Olson to shoot movie scenes at Tenney Park between October 6 and 7, 2010 (rain dates Oct. 10-11) including overnight on October 7.

A motion was made by Clausius/Skidmore to approve the request of Matt Olson to shoot movie scenes at Tenney Park between October 6 and 7, 2010 (rain dates Oct. 10-11) including approval to stay overnight on October 7. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- D. [19748](#) Request of Luke Wendt to host Gio’s Garden Chili Cook-off on October 9, 2010 in Warner Park

A motion was made by Skidmore/Scarbrough to approve the request for Gio’s Garden Chili Cook-off for October 9, 2010 Warner Park. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- E. **Diseased and Dead Elms and Oaks on Private Property, 2010 Requiring Condemnation**

A motion was made by Skidmore/Clausius to recommend that at the October 13, 2010 meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners, a public hearing be held beginning at 6:45 p.m. to declare diseased and dead elms and oaks a public nuisance according to City of Madison General Ordinance 23.40 (4)(b). MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. [19147](#) Elizabeth Link Peace Park Visitor Center Code of Conduct Policy

Registered speakers, all in support of Code of Conduct Policy

Hawk Schenkel – left before item was heard
Mitch Freund, BID Ambassador
Susan Schmitz, DMI
Sandi Torkildsen
Mary Carbine, BID
Sgt. Tony Fiore

Based on comments and concerns brought forward at the July meeting, Parks staff met with many of the stakeholders to obtain input for the rules and regulations that are contained in the revised Code of Conduct before you this evening. A draft of the wording to be used on the signs that will be posted is also included for your review. The Code will establish a safe and welcoming environment for both the Ambassadors staffing the facility as well as visitors.

Staff had anticipated occupancy of the Visitor Center over Labor Day week-end but the rains this summer have delayed completion. A soft opening is tentatively set for September 17 with a formal ceremony to be planned at a later date. The building is a beautiful structure that blends well with the streetscape. It will be one of Parks new showcase facilities. It will be a shining example of Madison's wonderful parks for all visitors to State Street.

Thanks were offered to members of the Elizabeth Link Peace Park Advisory Committee who met for the past few years to champion this renovation. The revival of the park is in large part due to their dedication and hard work. Sgt. Fiore added that police believe the expectations for behavior in that building are not intrusive to visitors and guests but will help curb some of the problems they anticipate could return when the park is reopened.

President Barker noted how impressed he is that the façade of the building fits in very well with the street. Thousands and thousands of visitors to the city will see it when they are on State Street and he is very optimistic that this will be a great park for the State Street area. He is grateful for all of the partnerships that worked together to make this happen.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Scarborough to approve the revised Code of Conduct and proposed language for the signs. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VII. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Skidmore/Clausius the meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.