



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Approved BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

6:30 PM 625 Northport Dr. # (Warner Park Community Recreation
Center)

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

A motion was made by Skidmore/Clausius to suspend the rules to allow Betty Chewning to chair the meeting in the absence of President Barker. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.** Chewning called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Present: 5 -

Joseph R. Clausius; Paul E. Skidmore; David L. Wallner; Betty Chewning and Janet Parker

Excused: 2 -

William W. Barker and Emanuel Scarbrough

Emanuel Scarbrough, Excused

Parks staff present: Superintendent Kevin Briski, Bill Bauer, Steve Doniger, Kay Rutledge, Jim Weinstock, Dan Rodman, LaVonne LaFave

City staff present: Ray Harmon

Alders present: Ald. Larry Palm

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Wallner/Skidmore/ to approve the Minutes of the May 13, 2009 meeting of the Park Commission. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Golf Committee

A motion was made by Wallner/Skidmore to accept the Minutes of the November 25, 2008 Golf Committee meeting. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Habitat Stewardship Committee/Tree Board

A motion was made by Wallner/Skidmore to accept the Minutes of January 13 and March 10, 2009 Habitat Stewardship Committee/Tree Board meetings. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Olbrich Botanical Society

A motion was made by Wallner/Skidmore to accept the Minutes of the April 21, 2009 meeting of the Olbrich Botanical Society. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Committee

A motion was made by Wallner/Skidmore to accept the Minutes of March 26, 2009 Meeting of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARK COMMISSION

No report. The appointments to the Facilities, Programs & Fees Committee and Long Range Planning Committee were deferred to the July meeting.

VII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS

Written Report of Supervisors' Activities

A motion was made by Skidmore/Clausius to approve the written report. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Informational Items

Superintendent Briski introduced Kay Rutledge, Parks new Planning & Development Manager, who is commonly referred to as the new "Si". Rutledge began on June 1, 2009 and is very happy to be back in Wisconsin. She stated she is looking forward to working with the Commission on planning and development issues.

Pool & Beaches Opening 2009

The pool and beaches officially open this coming weekend.

Madison Parks Branding

Superintendent Briski asked that this item be deferred to the July meeting.

Wetlands Gem Award

Superintendent Briski announced that he had the pleasure of representing the Park Commission and Parks Division at a Wisconsin Wetlands Association meeting to accept a Wetlands Gem award honoring Cherokee Marsh as a

Wisconsin wetland gem. Cherokee Marsh was recognized as one of the top 100 wetland sites in the state. It is listed on the Association's website and in its promotions and activities. This award brings recognition to the Parks conservation program as well as a testament to the Park Commission for their efforts in supporting these conservation efforts.

Goodman Brothers

Last week he received a phone call from the Goodman Brothers regarding the pool and our continuing need for additional funds for scholarships. They were amazed at Parks efforts via a partnership with the Madison Parks Foundation and Madison Mallards in the Remarkable Rubber Ducky River Race in an effort to create additional fundraising opportunities to sustain the scholarship program. In admiration of that initiative they wrote a check for \$25,000 to be used immediately for the scholarship program. The Goodman Brothers are incredible in their generosity to the citizens of Madison. He had previously shared with them the thank you letters, pictures and cards from last year's scholarship kids and it was very emotional for them to accept the kids' appreciation.

Lake Levels

There has been significant dialogue between the city, county and state with regard to the lake level debate. There has been an agreement that the levels would be adjusted based on the recommendation from the state and county. Some adjustments have already been made based on last winter's snowfall and spring rains. Previously the DNR waited for a specific date before making adjustments. They are now monitoring levels day by day and making frequent adjustments. The state determines the permanent levels and forwards that information to the county.

Shady Wood Neighborhood Plan

The Common Council did not act on the Shady Wood Neighborhood Plan but referred it back to the Plan Commission. Skidmore reported that three Committees had asked for approval of Phase A and for referral of B and C. The Council decided not to approve it but refer the entire proposal back to the Plan Commission. It is believed there will be a reconsideration of that motion at the next Council meeting and a reaffirmation by the Plan Commission. It was noted that the Park Commission had asked for it to be brought back to it in 60 days but the Plan Commission said six months. The majority of the property in the Neighborhood Plan is outside of the city of Madison and, as such, is totally outside of this body. The applicants could go to the City of Verona and ask to be annexed to that municipality. It does appear that within the next month there will probably be another vote on this issue. It was also noted that from the Council floor an Alder could refer it back to the Park Commission. Members of the Park Commission reaffirmed they would like the plan to come back to this body.

Pilot Recycling Program

The pilot recycling program began in several city parks over the Memorial Day week-end and will run thru Labor Day. The majority of the carts are full; however, Parks is experiencing some contamination. Location adjustments will be made if it appears that the carts are not being fully utilized in their current locations.

Tenney Park Shelter

The Garrison Keillor event to benefit the new Tenney Park shelter was nearly sold out but it is not yet known how much money was made. There was also an additional fund raiser at Mary Lang Sollinger's home prior to the event.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Clausius to take item X. A. out of order. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Request from Hanah Jon Taylor director of the Madison Center for Creative and Cultural Arts to host a summer community outreach initiative behind the Collins House at James Madison Park on July 26, 2009.

Registered Speaker:

NAME

Hanah Jon Taylor in support

The applicant requested that he be allowed to change the date of the event from July 26 as shown in his written request to August 2. It was noted that the August 2 date had not been noticed in the Agenda. A motion was made by Parker/Clausius to approve the event and to allow staff to work out the date on which it will occur. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES

- A. [14632](#) To amend the 2009 Capital Budget to accept the donation of funds and in kind donations for the design and construction of a plaza and installation of a pergola in Veterans Memorial Park.

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

- B. [14936](#) Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a Use Agreement between the City and Mid-West Family Broadcasting, Inc. (Mid-West) for the July 3rd Woodman's Elver Park Fireworks; amending the 2009 City of Madison Parks Division Budget; and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an Agreement between the City and Bartolotta Fireworks Company, Inc. for the fireworks display at Elver Park.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Wallner to approve the Resolution ID#14936 Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a Use Agreement between the City and Mid-West Family Broadcasting, Inc. (Mid-West) for the July 3rd Woodman's Elver Park Fireworks; amending the 2009 City of Madison Parks Division Budget; and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an Agreement between the City and Bartolotta Fireworks Company, Inc. for the fireworks display at Elver Park. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

This Resolution was RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER

- C. Request of Deb McCue, Vice President Madison Fireworks Fund, Inc. to extend closing of Rhythm & Booms to 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 27, 2009 (rain date June 28) to allow one music stage and beer garden/food court to operate following the fireworks.**

A motion was made by Skidmore/Wallner to approve the Request of Deb McCue, Vice President Madison Fireworks Fund, Inc. to extend closing of Rhythm & Booms to 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 27, 2009 (rain date June 28) to allow one music stage and beer garden/food court to operate following the fireworks. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resolution 14960 to authorize the closure of Warner Park lagoon and its connecting waterway to Lake Mendota during 2009 Rhythm and Booms celebration.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Wallner to approve the Resolution 14960 to authorize the closure of Warner Park lagoon and its connecting waterway to Lake Mendota during 2009 Rhythm and Booms celebration. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

14961

To extend the closing hours at Warner Park to 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 27, 2009 for the 17th annual Rhythm & Booms Independence Day fireworks event. (12th AD)

A motion was made by Skidmore/Wallner to approve the Resolution 14960 to authorize the closure of Warner Park lagoon and its connecting waterway to Lake Mendota during 2009 Rhythm and Booms celebration. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

This Resolution was RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER

- F. 14962**

To declare the month of July as Parks and Recreation Month and to recognize the benefits that Madison parks provide for recreational opportunities.

A motion was made by Skidmore, seconded by Wallner, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULES 2.04, 2.05, 2.24, & 2.25 - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by voice vote/other. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Proclamation to declare the Month of July as Parks and Recreation Month and to recognize the benefits that Madison parks provide for recreational opportunities.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Wallner to approve the Proclamation to declare the Month of July as Parks and Recreation Month and to recognize the benefits that Madison parks provide for recreational opportunities. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

G. Request from Tim Saterfield, President Lake Edge Neighborhood Association to restrict the consumption of alcohol at Lake Edge Park to permit only

A motion was made by Skidmore/Wallner to approve the request from Tim Saterfield, President of Lake Edge Neighborhood Association to restrict the consumption of alcohol at Lake Edge Park to permit only.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Registered Speakers:

NAME - All registering in support

Tim Saterfield, President of Lake Edge Nei. Assn

Dave Poutefield

Woman with illegible writing think it may be Marcy Brost, lives on Maher

Dean Mueller

Dawn Hinebaugh

Tom Stoebig

Ald. Larry Palm

Commissioners questioned whether the restrictions on alcohol should cover all parks or to prohibit alcohol use just in neighborhood parks. A ban on alcohol in every case is not a solution. It is also clear people are in the park after hours. Superintendent Briski reported that Parks has been scheduling rangers to patrol Lake Edge Park as close as possible to park closing. Typically two rangers go together because it is a precarious situation. They escort people out of the park, stay there for a short time but when the Rangers leave, folks go back into the park.

Ald. Palm spoke about Lake Edge Park as a unique neighborhood park with a shelter and restrooms that are used by postal workers, street crews, etc. He thought perhaps neighborhood parks should have restrictions on alcohol consumption. Bigger parks such as Olbrich, Elver and Warner have regional attributes. Given the proximity of Lake Edge to houses and the location of the playground equipment to open space he believes alcohol should be banned. This neighborhood needs action now.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Wallner to approve the request from Tim Saterfield, President Lake Edge Neighborhood Association to restrict the consumption of alcohol at Lake Edge Park to permit only.

Skidmore noted that the Park Commission has been dealing with alcohol issues in some parks since the early 1990's and the Park Commission has been banning alcohol one park at a time. He thinks there should be a ban on public drinking and while it is not a park issue, it is a public policy issue. There is a roving band of people who drink in parks until they are kicked out and then they move on to the next park. It may be time for the Park Commission to be proactive.

Clausius reported there had been a special subcommittee, the Ad Hoc Committee on Alcohol and Related Behaviors in City Parks, and the consensus was that it was wrong to have a citywide ban on alcohol but would consider it on an individual park basis. He would support a ban on a case by case basis if

there was neighborhood association, alder and police support. Wallner also indicated he served on this committee. The final report was submitted to the Park Commission but the new members may not have received it. He suggested that the Commissioners again review the Report. He isn't sure what the answer is since he had originally presumed it was a downtown problem but has since learned it is a citywide problem. A suggestion was made that a ban be implemented for a year or two with a sunset clause. The park by park ban with a sunset is not a total solution but the neighborhood association could come back before the Park Commission with a request to renew the ban if necessary based upon behaviors.

Superintendent Briski added that the Report was drafted early in his tenure and there has been significant discussion regarding the criteria that would be used to determine whether or not a ban was appropriate. It would include support from the alder, police, neighborhood association and the Parks Division in order to receive approval from the Park Commission. Parks would be reviewed on a case by case basis and there could also be some sort of sunset clause.

If alcohol is banned in all neighborhood parks it isn't solving the problem but is simply moving people around. This is not a park issue; it's a social and behavior issue. Wallner continued, noting that police don't have the resources to deal with this issue, there are chronic alcoholics that move around the city parks and there are places where people drink to excess. It is a cultural problem.

The motion was restated: A motion was made by Skidmore/Wallner to approve the request from Tim Saterfield, President Lake Edge Neighborhood Association to restrict the consumption of alcohol at Lake Edge Park to permit only. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A request will be forwarded to the City Attorney tomorrow morning asking that Lake Edge Park be added to the Ordinance banning alcohol in certain city parks.

PARKS EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

Superintendent Briski asked to take the Employee of the Month recognition at this time. He was pleased to announce the Parks Division's June Employee of the Month is Dan Rodman. Rodman was late this evening because he was responding to an afterhours work issue. He is our surveyor and has a tremendous work ethic. He rides his bike to work every day. He is a young father and takes a great deal of pride in his daughter. As the surveyor he is dealing with lots of precise details. Upon presentation of the award Superintendent Briski offered to babysit so Rodman could use the movie tickets.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Capital Budget for 2010

Superintendent Briski presented the draft of the 2010 Capital Budget that staff

has been diligently working on right up until tonight's meeting. It is still in draft form and follows the annual submittal format and areas of concentration found in previous years. There is not a lot that is new for the coming year. Although the assessable trees are not a GO debt item, it is listed each year. Equipment is purchased through the capital budget; operational costs come from the operating budget. Under facility improvements, two larger items are the Brittingham shelter roof that is in need of repairs and Goodman Maintenance facility Building "B" needs insulation and roof repair. Park Landscaping continues the meadow plantings as well as restoration improvements in partnership with the groups for Starkweather Creek and the Yahara Parkway. The Parks Matching Fund continues to match funds with neighborhood groups for park improvements. Parks paving includes redoing a portion of the Warner Park parking lots which is one of the worst and is really showing its age. Because of the size of the lots, the replacement will be phased over the next three years. The Development Fee projects are paid from fees received for new residential units. Specific Park Improvements include improvements to the Johnson Bridge in Tenney Park to correct issues with the façade and foundation.

The city's Facilities Management section will do an assessment on the Odana Golf Course Clubhouse. It's an older facility that has had roof problems and still has the original HVAC systems. Lake Edge Park and Elvehjem Park shelters and restrooms are in need of work. Conversations will take place with the Lake Edge neighborhood about renovating or tearing down the shelter/restroom. Elvehjem needs new restrooms.

Commissioners questioned where funding would be found for new arborists to deal with EAB. Forestry staff are monitoring the ash borer situation and there are now 2 or 3 counties in Wisconsin where the insect has been found. The findings thus far, are small and isolated. Our City Forester and Operations Supervisor are going to Milwaukee to view a new program aimed at preventing the spread of EAB, called TreeAge. Parks is also working with Streets to have equipment put in their capital budget earmarked for EAB tree removals. This is a situation of "when" not "if", it is spreading. Forestry is putting systems in place so when it hits, we're prepared. The only program that is of note is the removal of infected trees. On a prevention side, we are watching to see how the Milwaukee program works.

A remodel had previously been proposed at Yahara but has not happened. It involved flipping the club house and locker room portions. It is a long range goal to switch the operations that would then provide a rentable space. We are reviewing the Odana and Yahara clubhouses in terms of "green" initiatives and sustainable efficiencies, including insulation.

Parks and Engineering are studying different types of infiltration methods and permeable types of blocks in regard to the Warner parking lot. The latest discussions including identifying some areas that would be test sites for the permeable technology. The biggest issue is cost.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to the adjournment motion, Superintendent Briski announced that we lost two members of the Parks family in the past month. They were both great guys

who were devoted to our Parks system. Tom Patnaude passed away of a heart attack on site while working at Westmorland Park. He was 40 years of age and had worked for Parks for 20 years. This past Saturday, Bruce Laylan, died in a car accident in Arena. He had also worked for the Parks Division for more than 20 years. He was full of life and spirit, had great energy and really loved his job. Both men were gregarious and fun spirited people. We have provided grief counseling to our staff. He felt it was appropriate to honor both men.

Park Commissioners extended their condolences to their families and to the Parks staff who knew them. Parks lost two really good people.

On motion of Skidmore/Wallner the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.