



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Consider: Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

6:30 PM

330 E. Lakeside St.

1 Call to Order/Roll Call

A meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was held at the Parks Lakeside Offices at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, January 14, 2026. President Miller Fienen called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Members Present: Ald. Derek Field; Moira Harrington; Chandra Miller Fienen; and Ben Williams.

Members Excused: Ald. Carmella Glenn; Catie McDonald; and Michelle Probst.

Parks Staff Present: Eric Knepp; Lisa Laschinger; Joanne Austin; Jennifer Delaney; Kelly Post; and Chad Hughes.

City Staff Present: Katie Crawley, Mayor's Office.

2 91308 Approval of the Minutes of the December 10, 2025 Board of Park Commissioners meeting.

Motion made by Field, seconded by Williams, to Approve the Minutes of the December 10, 2025 Board of Park Commissioners meeting. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

3 91312 Public Comment

There were no registrants for Public Comment.

4 Disclosures and Recusals

None.

5 91453 Election of Board of Park Commissioners President (All Districts)

Motion made by Williams, seconded by Field, to Re-Elect Chandra Miller Fienen to the position of Board of Park Commissioners President. Motion passed with Miller Fienen recusing herself.

6 91465 Election of Board of Park Commissioners Vice President (All Districts)

Motion made by Field, seconded by Harrington, to Elect Ben Williams to the position of Board of Park Commissioners Vice President. Motion passed with Williams recusing himself.

Reports**7 President of the Park Commission**

President Miller Fienen thanked Commissioner Williams for serving on the Commission and Subcommittees and agreeing to serve as Vice President. She encouraged Commissioners to let her or staff know if they want to serve on subcommittees or if they knew anyone who would.

8 [91343](#) Approving Park Commission President Member and Resident Appointment to Subcommittee of the Board of Park Commissioners (All Districts)

Motion made by Field, seconded by Harrington, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO CONFIRM UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULE 2.055. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

9 [91344](#) Recommending Park Commission President Member to Related Organization not Represented by Subcommittee (District 4, District 13, District 14)

Motion made by Field, seconded by Harrington, to Approve the recommendation. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

10 Superintendent of Parks

Superintendent Eric Knepp discussed the staff workplan and stated it would be discussed further later in the meeting. There were many accomplishments in 2025 and he's happy to be back. Winter weather has been hit or miss the last 5 years or so, but many ski permits have already been sold. Knepp discussed intention to bring some items to the Park Commission and Common Council regarding strategic land acquisitions to prepare for our future park system. Candlelight Snowshoe event had 900 people attend.

11 [91319](#) January 2026 Superintendent's Report

Olbrich Botanical Gardens Director of Guest Experiences Jennifer Delaney provided a presentation about Olbrich Botanical Gardens and answered questions.

Motion made by Field, seconded by Williams, to Accept the Report. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

12 New Business

Motion made by Field, seconded by Harrington, to Approve by Consent Agenda No. 13, Legislative File No. 91320; No. 14, Legislative File No. 91321; No. 22, Legislative File No. 91494; and No. 23, Legislative File No. 91469. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

13 [91320](#) Adopting the Woods Farm Park and Canter Park Development Plans.

Motion made by Field, seconded by Harrington, to Adopt the Plans. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

14 [91321](#) Adopting the Newville (Kenneth) Park Development Plan
Motion made by Field, seconded by Harrington, to Adopt the Plan. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

15 [91399](#) Informational Update on the Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance 2025 Noise Study at Warner Park (District 12)
Assistant Superintendent Lisa Laschinger indicated that Agenda Items 15 through 19 are related.
Laschinger gave an overview of the history of fireworks in Warner Park.
Matt Reetz and Brenna Marsicek of the Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance presented the study results and answered questions.

16 [91379](#) Informational Update by Madison Mallards on the Neighborhood Impact Plan for the 2026 Mallards and Night Mares Season at Warner Park Stadium (District 12)
Registered speaker Samantha Rubin of Madison Mallards was available to answer questions.

17 [91380](#) Approving Request by Madison Mallards for Fireworks Displays and Other Promotions for the 2026 Mallards and Night Mares Season at Warner Park Stadium (District 12)
Samantha Rubin of the Madison Mallards presented the request and answered questions.
Registered speaker Michael Rewey of Wild Warner spoke in support.
Registered speaker Beth Sluys spoke in opposition.
Motion made by Harrington to Approve the request with strict adherence to conditions outlined in the request from the Mallards, seconded by Field.
Motion passed by voice vote/other.

18 [91403](#) Approving request from Big Top Events for fireworks displays at Breese Stevens Field for 2026. (District 6)
Conor Caloia and Tristan Straub of Big Top Events (dba Breese Stevens Field) presented the request and answered questions.
Registrant Beth Sluys was in opposition.
Motion made by Harrington, seconded by Field, to Approve the request.
Motion passed by voice vote/other.

19 [91401](#) Approving request from Big Top Events for additional concerts at Breese Stevens Field in 2026 (District 6)
Conor Caloia and Tristan Straub of Big Top Events (dba Breese Stevens Field) presented the request and answered questions.
Registrant Beth Sluys was in opposition.
Motion made by Williams, seconded by Field, to Approve the request. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

20 [91452](#) Approving request for annual disbursement of funds from Olin Trust for park beautification projects
Operations Manager Chad Hughes provided an overview of the beautification report and was available to answer questions.
Motion made by Harrington, seconded by Field, to Approve the request. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

21 [91363](#) Recommending approval of the Qualified Discount Program for athletic reservations as a permanent program
Park and Street Use Supervisor Kelly Post provided an overview of the program and was available to answer questions.
Motion made by Field, seconded by Williams, to Approve the Program. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

22 [91494](#) Approving Revised Golf Program Guidelines and Standards for the City of Madison Parks Division and Establishing Booking Fee.
Motion made by Field, seconded by Harrington, to Approve the revisions. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

23 [91469](#) Accepting Report from Staff Regarding 2025 Fee Modifications
Motion made by Field, seconded by Harrington, to Accept the Report. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

24 [91500](#) Informational Update on the 2026 Parks Division Workplan
Laschinger provided a presentation and answered questions.

25 [91332](#) Informational Presentation from Staff Regarding Legislative Process Matters and Upcoming Related Adjustments to Board of Park Commissioners Policies & Procedures
Laschinger provided a presentation and answered questions.

26 [91067](#) Reminder for Park Commissioners to file their 2026 Statement of Interest forms by January 6, 2026.

27 **Adjournment**

Motion made by Williams, seconded by Field, to Adjourn at 9:13 PM. Motion passed by voice vote/other.