



# 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?*

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Wednesday, August 13, 2025

6:30 PM

VIRTUAL

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### 1 Call to Order/Roll Call

A meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was held virtually at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, August 13, 2025. President Miller Fienen called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Members Present: Ald. Derek Field; Ald. Carmella Glenn; Moira Harrington; Catie McDonald; Chandra Miller Fienen; Michelle Probst; and Ben Williams.

Parks Staff Present: Lisa Laschinger; CJ Ryan; Joanne Austin; Tanya Zastrow; Chad Hughes; and Adam Kaniewski .

City Staff Present: Katie Crawley, Mayor's Office; Doran Viste, Attorney's Office; Karin Wolfe, Planning; and Jose Navarro and Aaron Canton, Engineering.

### 2 [89339](#)

Approval of the Minutes of the July 9, 2025 Board of Park Commissioners meeting.

Motion made by Probst, seconded by Field, to Approve the Minutes of the July 9, 2025 Board of Park Commissioners meeting. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

### 3 [89343](#)

Public Comment

There were no registrants for public comment.

### 4 Disclosures and Recusals

None.

## REPORTS

### 5 President of the Park Commission

Miller Fienen thanked staff for their hard work this summer. This month is Madison Lakeway launch. Their website, [madisonlakeway.org](http://madisonlakeway.org), is up and fundraising is starting.

- 6      [89471](#)      Approving Park Commission President Member Appointments to the Subcommittee of the Board of Park Commissioners
- Interim Superintendent Lisa Laschinger provided an overview of the recommended appointments.
- Miller Fienen clarified that there are still 2 empty member positions in the Facilities, Programs and Fees Subcommittee.
- Motion made by Harrington, seconded by McDonald, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO CONFIRM UNDER SUSPENSION OF MGO 2.055. Motion passed by voice vote/other.
- 7      **Superintendent of Parks**
- Laschinger presented the report. July was Parks and Recreation Month. Assistant Superintendent CJ Ryan and Laschinger have been doing staff meetings with all staff. A few sections are remaining and will occur soon. Recognized that while Ride the Drive had to be cancelled, the team put in a tremendous amount of great work. Olbrich Botanical Gardens just ended the Blooming Butterflies event and had viewings of the corpse flower. Golf is having a great year. Currently \$200,000 in revenue over last year's numbers, which was a record at that time. The mayor was briefed today on Parks Capital Budget proposal. The Capital Budget will be released on September 9th. There are 2 vacancies in the Facilities, Programs and Fees Subcommittee and 1 in the Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee. Staff vacancies are very low. Gave compliments to AASPIRE interns who were very helpful this summer.
- 8      [89407](#)      August 2025 Superintendent's Report
- Planning and Development Manager Adam Kaniewski presented the Planning and Development section report and answered questions.
- Motion made by Field, seconded by Glenn, to Accept the Report. Motion passed by voice vote/other.
- 9      [89361](#)      Report of the Minutes of the July 16, 2025 Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee meeting.
- Motion made by Harrington, seconded by Williams, to Accept the Minutes. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

**10 NEW BUSINESS**

- 11     [89420](#)     Approving the Madison Parks Division's 2025-2030 Park & Open Space Plan.

Laschinger provided an overview and the next steps.

Harrington noted that Page 61 pertaining to University of Wisconsin facilities needed to be updated.

**Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Probst, to Approve the Plan with suggested revisions to page 61 regarding University of Wisconsin facilities. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**

- 12     [89324](#)     Authorizing the Mayor and the City Clerk to execute an amendment to the Breese Stevens Stadium Use and Operating Agreement with Big Top Events LLC to update the limitations on alcohol sales at Stadium Events. (District 6)

Ryan provided an overview of the proposed amendments.

Registered speaker Conor Caloia of Big Top Events was in support and available to answer questions.

**Motion made by Glenn, seconded by Probst, to Approve the Amendment. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**

- 13     [88148](#)     Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to enter into an Amended View Preservation Easement for Merrill Springs Park (District 19)

Operations Manager Chad Hughes provided an overview of the proposed amendment and answered questions.

Assistant City Attorney Doran Viste provided additional background information and was available to answer questions.

Registered speaker Faith Fitzpatrick of Friends of Merrill Spring spoke in opposition.

Registered speaker Alice Erickson spoke in opposition.

Registered speaker Kendall Harrison spoke in support.

Registered speaker Jessica Harrison spoke in support.

Registrant Heidi Sonnenburg was in opposition.

Registrant Kimberly McBride was in opposition.

Registrant Leslie Herje was in support.

**Motion made by Harrington, seconded by Glenn, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**

- 14      [89418](#)      Approving the installation of Wisconsin Landscape Mosaic Mural by Artist Arnold Zweerts in the Madison Parks Division's Lakeside Offices Boardroom
- Karin Wolfe of Planning and mural conservator Lillian Sizemore provided an overview and answered questions.**
- Harrington asked Sizemore to thank the MacCrimmon family for considering the donation.**
- Motion made by Field, seconded by McDonald, to Approve the Installation. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**
- 15      [89483](#)      Approving request from Olbrich Botanical Society to install temporary trail cameras for security of GLEAM art installations.
- Tanya Zastrow of the Olbrich Botanical Society provided an overview of the request and answered questions.**
- Motion made by Glenn, seconded by Field, to Approve. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**
- 16      [89421](#)      Approving request to grant access and right of entry to Starkweather, LLC or their contractor for the installation and City of Madison for the maintenance of public storm sewer within Starkweather Park to serve the development located in the Starkweather Plat
- Laschinger provided an overview of the request.**
- Registered speaker Thomas Price: Jillian Hayes, Starkweather, LLC, provided additional information and was available to answer questions.**
- Motion made by Field, seconded by Probst, to Approve the Request contingent upon review and approval of the project by the DNR and that the developers comply with any and all conditions set forth by the DNR. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**
- 17      [89403](#)      Approving Engineering Request for construction improvements in Lake Edge Park.
- Kaniewski introduced the project.**
- Jose Navarro of Engineering provided an overview.**
- Motion made by Glenn, seconded by Williams, to Approve the Request. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**

- 18      [89325](#)      Amending Sections 10.25(4), 23.21(1), 23.22, 23.25 and 23.40(4)(b) of the Madison General Ordinances to reflect changes to tree authority and the requirements of the terrace treatment policy.
- Laschinger provided an overview of the proposed amendments.
- Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Probst, to RETURN TO LEAD WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS.  
Motion passed by voice vote/other.
- 19      [89417](#)      Approving Updated Board of Park Commissioners Rules of Procedure and Basic Policies
- Ryan provided an overview.
- Motion made by Glenn, seconded by Williams, to Approve. Motion passed by voice vote/other.
- 20      **Adjournment**
- Motion made by Williams, seconded by McDonald, to Adjourn at 8:30 PM.  
Motion passed by voice vote/other.