



**City of Madison**  
**Proceedings - Final**  
**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**

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

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Wednesday, April 11, 2007

6:30 PM

1625 Northport Dr. (WPCRC)

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CALL TO ORDER

I. ROLL CALL

**Present:** Santiago Rosas, Paul E. Skidmore, William Barker, Stephen A. Webster, Betty Chewing, Emanuel Scarbrough and Betty N. MacDonald

**Parks staff present:** James Morgan, Si Widstrand, Elinor Riley, Donald Studesville, Laura Bauer, LaVonne LaFave

**City staff present:** Dan Rolfs, Al Larson

**President Scarbrough called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.**

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. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 14, 2007

**A motion was made by Skidmore/Rosas to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 14, 2007 regular meeting of the Park Commission with the following amendment: page 2, paragraph 4 change sentence to read: There is a difference in height of approximately 2.5 feet between Wingra Creek and the Lake. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Olbrich Botanical Society Minutes of February 20, 2007 Meeting

**A motion was made by Chewing/Webster to accept the Minutes of the February 20, 2007 meeting of the Olbrich Botanical Society. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

B. Warner Park Community Recreation Center Minutes of January 17, 2007 Meeting

**A motion was made by MacDonald/Skidmore to accept the Minutes of January 17, 2007 meeting of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**A motion was made by Barker/MacDonald to approve the proposed changes in terms for the Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. President Scarbrough noted the Support Statement from WPCRC Advisory Committee regarding expansion of the building was informational.**

V. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARK COMMISSION

President Scarbrough thanked Bill Barker for chairing the March meeting in his absence as he tended to family medical issues. Also at that meeting a discussion was held regarding the issue of the land under Lincoln School Apartments in James Madison Park. The Park Commission has asked the City Attorney for an opinion on whether the James Madison Park Property Planning Committee could actually vote to sell that real estate. The consensus after speaking with the Park Commissioners was that the Park Commission was created by state statute and they felt it would be appropriate to request an opinion from the State Attorney General explaining their authority. He sent a letter to the Attorney General requesting an opinion on this issue. He also advised the Assistant City Attorney working on the City's opinion that he had made a request to the Attorney General as well.

He went on to commend the Parks maintenance staff for their hard work in clearing the sidewalks in and along parks after the last snowfall in February. He noted that the sidewalks that Parks were responsible for were cleared before the street plowing was completed. On behalf of the Park Commission he extended their appreciation for the hard work of the Parks crews who do a yeoman's job.

President Scarbrough remarked that under the Superintendent's Report there is an informational item on the expansion of Park Meadow areas and comments from Kennedy Park users. This is the group that appeared before the Park Commission last spring who were opposed to the low mow areas and are now pleased with the outcome of their meadow. He commended Si Widstrand, Parks Development Manager, for his efforts in gaining the cooperation of the neighbors.

A. Special Recognition

Vice President Webster read a proclamation on behalf of the Park Commission thanking Santiago Rosas for his service on the Park Commission the past seven years in his roles as a member of the Board of Park Commissioners, including a term as President of the Park Commission and as a member of the Madison Parks Foundation. Applause followed. Alder Rosas expressed his appreciation for the

**Proclamation.** He shared that when he first moved to Wisconsin from Texas he marveled at the natural beauty and abundance of trees and lakes and how well people took care of the parks. He stated that we are caretakers of the parks and open spaces and he commended city staff and the rest of the Park Commissions for their stewardship.

B. Concept of Leadership Among Youth

President Scarbrough introduced Alan Zarinnia who spoke of what the Parks and Streets Divisions could do in terms of providing leadership models for youth. The city has the opportunity to use both youth and educational resources to empower the youth to take part in beautifying the city. Groups could work in parks and on streets and medians as volunteers. When visitors come to Madison, they would then see Madison's youth actively engaged in positive activities. Businesses could promote this endeavor by providing plants and shrubs and advertising what the youth are doing. It would provide an opportunity to teach responsibility, management and leadership as well as an opportunity to teach the biological and environmental aspects of planting trees, shrubs and flowers. Both the participants and Madison's citizens would readily see the results of this beautification.

Registered Speaker:

NAME	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Alan Zarinnia	XX	

Mr. Zarinnia brought up the issue of tagging which is seen as a way of people expressing themselves. If the taggers could be brought into these types of programs it might help them realize they can treat the plantings as a means of expression in the way they design the planting areas and then maintain them. There would be a twofold economic impact in participation - the landscape would be beautified and the tagging of buildings would stop.

President Scarbrough added that another venue that would provide influence for the Park Commission would involve placing articles in the various newspapers about these ongoing and youth oriented activities. Additionally if the papers would produce a column on Parks Happenings, it could include what types of events are occurring, where groups are working on a project, etc. It was suggested that that the on duty Parks staff person could randomly present awards to recognize the work people are doing in the park system. Superintendent Morgan added there was a program similar to this concept that worked in Milwaukee where kids could actually work for three weeks in the summer and earn a paycheck. It involved kids from many different schools and they took ownership of the parks they worked in and vandalism decreased. That same program was started in Lincoln, Nebraska and won two national awards. The kids were paid through donations received by the Lincoln Parks Foundation. It made an instant impact on parks. Commissioners agreed that involving kids in volunteering to do park maintenance and beautification is a great way to teach them that great communities are not an accident. They also felt that Parks staff is overworked already and questioned how this program could be coordinated.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Rosas to accept the concept of youth leadership in our parks and to create a subcommittee of the Park Commission to foster youth leadership in our parks by developing a program to instill responsibility

and philanthropy in youth while volunteering their time and energy to help maintain our parks. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS

A. Written Report of Supervisor's Activities

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

B. Informational Items

Update on Expansion of Park Meadow Areas/Kennedy Park Comments

**President Scarbrough previously discussed this item. (see President's Report above)**

Update on new Westside Senior Center in Odana School Park

**Superintendent Morgan recalled that many of the current members of the Park Commission were on the Board when the Westside Senior Coalition presented a proposal to build their new Senior Center on a portion of parkland in Odana School Park. He related that the Westside Senior Coalition has not totally abandoned that park site. However, the developers of the Hilldale Mall have offered the Senior Coalition space in the shopping center and it would be called a Senior Cafe. It is more of a bistro setting with a larger meal choice. Meals can be paid by either a swipe card or cash. The area would have rooms surrounding the central eating area that would accommodate different classes. The concept would work well in the mall and it would save the Coalition from having to capital fundraise to build a building. The Senior Coalition is exploring this proposal.**

Carp in Vilas Park

**Superintendent Morgan reported the Parks Division has been working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Friends of Lake Wingra, the UW Center for Limnology, Dane County and city Engineering to come up with an action plan to deal with carp this spring. In May they plan to remove a significant number of carp from that lagoon, inspect them and dispose of them.**

**Registered Speakers:**

**Kurt Welke, DNR, in support**

**Richard Lathrop, UW, in support**

**The carp removal project has been proposed because Lake Wingra is a shallow, very turbid algae lake with lots of problems that include an over abundance of carp. There are two alternative states for shallow lakes. They can have clear water with abundant aquatic plants or it can be a turbid algal lake. Lake Wingra is a turbid lake containing large quantities of Eurasian water milfoil but has the potential to become better. Our early ancestors planted the carp in large water bodies throughout the state and about ten years later realized it had created problems in Lake Wingra. Between the 1930's and 1960's the State conducted massive seining efforts to remove the carp and thru those efforts were able to bring the levels down to about 10% of what they had been. Those seining methods then stopped and the carp population has increased dramatically.**

In 2006, an experimental enclosure was installed covering 2.5 acres and the carp were removed from this area. Its purpose is to test aquatic plant response to clear water. There are more than 21 different aquatic plant species in Lake Wingra and they should do well if their growth is not limited by a lack of light. All of the carp have been removed from the enclosure but there are some small native fish inside. This is a 3 year project since more than one growing season is necessary in order to measure the native plant repopulation response. By the end of the first year, a noticeable difference in clarity was visible and the Milfoil has been greatly reduced.

There are problems associated with large-scale carp removal. Poison is not an option for the carp removal and it is a difficult situation. Transmitters were installed in some carp to determine where they would be vulnerable for netting. It was determined that many of them travel into the Vilas Park lagoon for spawning. The DNR will be installing a weir net to capture the fish within the lagoon and in late spring will conduct a removal program. The DNR is contracting with a commercial fisherman to remove the fish. City Engineering will assist in sequestering that portion of Vilas Park surrounding the area where the removals will be taking place. These fish will be examined and counted for data gathering purposes.

Superintendent Morgan noted this item was placed on the Agenda for information purposes because there is the potential for lots of media coverage and wanted the Park Commissioners to be aware of what is happening in case they get questions about what is going on. He felt it was more beneficial for them to receive the information from the experts who will be conducting this project. The DNR will provide an intense media press release prior to the actual fish removals explaining what's happening and why it's being done. The DNR will have very good public relations package in place for the day of removal. Parks personnel see many families who fish for sustenance so the removals will be treated sensitively.

Lathrop noted that the dam at Wingra is an issue for the future restoration of the lake. The DNR needs an outlet dam that prevents carp from going in if a restoration of the lake is to be undertaken. There is no ecological reason for the musky to scale the dam; it's a picturesque scene. MacDonald stated that the issue with the dam has been focused on restoration or reconstruction not on the design except by implication.

Superintendent Morgan then addressed the issue of the removal of dead fish removal in the Warner Lagoon. Parks Maintenance staff had been removing them for several weeks prior to a volunteer group that spent last Saturday also shoveling them out of the lagoon. Parks has been in contact with northside residents on this issue and the resident were aware of how many bags of fish Parks crews had removed.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES

- A. [05992](#) Declaring the week of April 23rd thru April 27th, 2007 as ARBOR WEEK.

**Sponsors:** Paul E. Skidmore and Santiago Rosas

This matter was RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER.  
The motion passed.

- B. [05993](#) Proclaiming April 21, 2007 Earth Day Clean-up Day and endorsing and encouraging citizen participation in the clean-up events at City of Madison Parks.

Sponsors: Paul E. Skidmore and Santiago Rosas

**This matter was RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER.  
The motion passed.**

- C. Southwest Water Tower - Potential Sites

**Registered Speakers**

**Al Larson, Water Utility in Support**

**Dan Rolfs, Planning in Support**

The Water Utility's master plan has demonstrated a need for a water tower in the Southwest quadrant of the city. The Water Utility has been working with the Parks Division and identified three potential sites with the necessary elevation. The location that is recommended is in Raymond Ridge Park because of the topography of the park. The other two sites are in Elver Park. The Water Utility is taking into consideration the visibility of the proposed tower.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Rosas to recommend that the Water Utility continue to explore the three potential sites and prepare renderings for each site before bringing their final recommendation back to the Park Commission. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.** It was noted this process would allow the Park Commissions to view the sites prior to the issue being brought back for approval. Skidmore interjected his preference for location of the tower would be in the vicinity of the police and fire stations in Elver Park and believes this is a radically different situation than the request to sell land under Lincoln School Apartments. This is an appropriate use for parkland for municipal services. He is not comfortable with the other sites due to the proximity of residences but believes it is up to the Water Utility to determine the best site and negotiate with the neighborhood.

Widstrand clarified that the land would be sold to the Water Utility based on past policy of the Park Commission when working with other city agencies as was done with the fire station. One of the proposed sites was purchased with park development monies so the right thing to do for the park system is to sell the property to Water Utility and put that money into the land acquisition fund for parks. If any of the sites had been purchased using grant money from either the Federal or State governments, Parks would be required to purchase replacement land.

- D, Proposal from Josh Kravetz of Adventure Fit, Inc. to host a Madison Urban Assault Race bicycle scavenger hunt on August 19, 2007 in Olin Park

**A motion was made by Barker/Rosas to approve the proposal from Josh Kravetz of Adventure Fit, Inc. to host a Madison Urban Assault Race bicycle scavenger hunt on August 19, 2007 in Olin Park. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

- E. Proposal from Thomas Murphy of Supreme Water Sports LLC. to host a SWS 2007 Tropical Luau on Memorial Day weekend - May 26~28, 2007 in James Madison Park.

A motion was made by Barker/Rosas to approve the proposal from Thomas Murphy of Supreme Water Sports LLC. to host a SWS 2007 Tropical Luau on Memorial Day weekend - May 26~28, 2007 in James Madison Park. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request to limit parking at Quarry Park

Superintendent Morgan indicated that Quarry Park is a popular park for dog walker and mountain bikers. However, what has occurred is that the road at the edge of the park is not an official city street but a portion of parkway. It has become free downtown parking for construction crews who then caravan to their job sites. The large pick up trucks and service vehicles are parking on both sides and are ruining the vegetation along the edges of the roadway. He has spoken with neighbors regarding possible solutions. The 3-hour parking limit at Vilas is working well. There may be minor issues with a couple of people who have driveways off the roadway without easements and will need to be dealt with individually.

A motion was made by Skidmore/MacDonald to approve the request to limit parking at Quarry Park and to request the City Attorney to draft the ordinance. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IX. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Rosas/Skidmore the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

B.