



**City of Madison**  
**Meeting Minutes - Final**  
**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**

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

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Wednesday, April 19, 2006

6:30 PM

1625 Northport Dr. (WPCRC)

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CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Madison Board of Park Commissioners was held on Wednesday, April 19, 2006 at Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Drive. President Barker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed. He introduced Stephen Webster who is the newest member on the Board of Park Commissioners.

ROLL CALL

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

**Absent:** Ald. Santiago Rosas

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Chewning/Skidmore to approve the Minutes of the March 8, 2006 regular meeting of the Park Commission. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Olbrich Botanical Society Minutes of February 21, 2006 Meeting

A motion was made by MacDonald/Chewning to accept the Minutes of the February 21, 2006 meeting of the Olbrich Botanical Society. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARK COMMISSION

President Barker stated he had recently been in Europe and while Madison is behind Europe in terms of public transportation this is not the case with Madison's wonderful parks system. They do not have a network of pocket parks like ours and it takes parks staff, the government structure and active participation by citizens to make good parks. When he returned he rode around this past Saturday and was pleased to see all the parks filled with people enjoying them.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS

Written Report of Supervisor's Activities

**A motion was made by Skidmore/Scarborough to approve the written report.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Informational

Superintendent Morgan introduced Roberta Sladky, the new Director at Olbrich Botanical Gardens. She attended her first Olbrich board meeting yesterday and everyone is very pleased to have her on board. A round of applause welcoming Roberta followed. Sladky stated she's happy to be here.

**Warner Park Community Recreation Center - Quorum Issues**

Superintendent Morgan stated the Warner Park Community Recreation Center quorum issues might generate a fair amount of discussion in the next few weeks. There is a desire to reorganize the Advisory Committee that was created prior to the opening of the Center seven years ago. There are fifteen members representing the different stakeholders. Recently there have been quorum issues . A subgroup, Efficiency of WPCRC Advisory Committee, has been meeting to discuss goals for the Advisory Committee focusing on the structure of the Advisory Committee, the time and frequency of meetings and the purpose of the committee. Reducing the number of members would make it a more viable subcommittee of the Park Commission. Two weeks ago a special meeting was called to review the package from the Efficiency Subcommittee to reorganize the Committee, but there was no quorum to hold that meeting. It is brought up tonight because there have been some e-mails circulating from entities who would no longer have seats on the Committee. Those e-mails were also sent to the Park Commissioners. He and the Bill Barker as President of the Park Commission have been meeting with the subgroup of the WPCRC Advisory Committee to guide them in this process. The subgroup is at a crossroads as to where they want to be as the Committee for WPCRC since they can't even present their results if meetings cannot be held due to lack of quorum. Their proposal is to pare the number of members down to a more workable group. This reorganization is part of the Strategic Planning process the Advisory Committee has been working on.

**A motion was made by Skidmore/Chewning to suspend the rules to allow speakers on this issue. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**Registered Speakers:**

**Susan Ihler, member of WPCRC Advisory Committee from its inception  
Joann Walker, President of WPCRC Advisory Committee  
Brad Weisinger, Facility Manager of WPCRC**

**A request was made to place this item on the Agenda for the Park Commission meeting in May with a recommendation to review and/or revise and/or adopt a new committee structure. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**Letter from Department of Botany regarding Boardwalk at Cherokee Marsh  
E-Mail Thank you from Michael Oliver regarding Community Gardens at Reindahl Park.**

Letter from David E. Miran regarding mooring field  
The remaining items in the packets were informational in nature.

CORRESPONDENCE, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES

**03096** Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into a Use Agreement with the YMCA of Dane County, Inc. for the YMCA's non-exclusive use of Elver Park for a summer day camp in 2006 with the possibility of a one year renewal.

**A motion was made by Ald. Skidmore, seconded by Chewning, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed by acclamation.**

**03208** Determining a public purpose and necessity and adopting a relocation order for the City of Madison to acquire the land interests required for the planned public water lateral needed for the Goodman Park Maintenance Facility. 13th Ald. Dist

**A motion was made by Ald. Skidmore, seconded by Chewning, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by acclamation.**

Request of Heather Senger, Marketing Manager of University House Communities of Madison to host and event in conjunction with the All Campus Party on April 28, 2006 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at James Madison Park.

**Registered Speaker:**

**Heather Senger in support The speaker stated there would not be alcohol at the event.**

**A motion was made by Chewning/Skidmore to approve the request of Heather Senger, Marketing Manager of University House Communities of Madison to host and event in conjunction with the All Campus Party on April 28, 2006 from 11:00 a. m. to 3:00 p.m. at James Madison Park based upon sponsor's compliance with staff recommendations. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

PUBLIC LISTENING SESSION - 7:00 P.M.

**President Barker declared the public listening session on the expansion of Park Meadow Areas open.**

**Superintendent Morgan introduced the Park Meadows expansion. The primary reasons are the environmental benefits and the second is the reduction of the mowing crews due to a reduced city budget. Today the Mayor also announced an initiative to reduce fossil fuel usage by 5% for the balance of 2006. It is believed the majority of that reduction will be dependent on the Parks Division because emergency vehicles, buses and garbage pickup will continue to run as scheduled. If the Parks Division must make up that fuel savings, there will be further decreases in mowing and an additional list may be brought before the Park Commission in the future. Widstrand explained the process that Parks Planning and Development followed. They have been mapping current meadow areas to**

create an up-to-date inventory of acreage as well as suggested meadow areas. Maps were sent to each Alder of the parks in their respective districts as well as to all appropriate neighborhood associations showing the meadow areas. There has also been media coverage regarding this proposal.

Speakers were asked to provide their suggestions for additional or different areas in their parks to the Parks Planning staff. Widstrand added that staff is willing to work with neighborhoods to move acreage from one location to another within their park in order to maintain or add to the totals. Superintendent Morgan interjected that if neighborhoods are willing to take over some of the more labor-intensive portions of maintenance, Parks will work with them to reach an acceptable solution.

**Registered Speakers:**

Karen Matteoni, Long Range Planning Comm. in support  
Barnaby Kerr, WI Coop Housing Assoc. Bordner Park in support  
Michael Woodards, Covered Bridge Condo Assoc. McClellan Park in  
opposition  
Jeff DuFrane, East Buckeye N.A. Orlando Bell Park in support  
Jerome Buhman, Hill Farms N.A. - Rennebohm Park in opposition  
Spencer Mael - Kennedy Park in opposition  
Laura Mael - Kennedy Park in opposition  
Doug Engbring - Kennedy Park in opposition  
Julie Laundire - Kennedy Park in support  
Judy Pollock - Kennedy Park in opposition  
Doris Lang - Waunona N.A. Paunack Park in support  
Ken Schmidt - Wexford Village, Wexford Park in opposition  
Troy Reaules, Greenways in support

Following the speakers, Widstrand addressed the comments made on Kennedy Park. This is a good example of the type of situation Parks encounters. Most of Kennedy Park speakers also sent e-mails or wrote prior to the meeting. In reviewing the Kennedy Park Meadows Plan, it would be possible to make a 15-foot cut along the Sudbury Street back lot lines but that doesn't resolve the concerns about mowing the entire park. The cut would also help with the drainage problem in the one corner. There are also steep banks that are difficult to mow and he proposed not contouring and mowing those steep slopes but mowing the flat areas. He believes this can be accomplished without blocking visibility from the street to the shelter.

He noted that it would be possible to accommodate most comments from residents about other parks. If groups are willing to provide sweat equity for the trimming, Parks may be able to do more open area mowing. Parks will not have the ability to do the trimming no matter what happens because of the reduction in the work force. Widstrand asked the Park Commission if areas that are not used and areas with sloping hillsides should continue to be cut multiple times throughout the year. He will contact neighborhood associations as soon as possible and work on compromise areas. He would like to receive general approval to the concept of managed meadows this evening with the understanding that Parks will work with neighborhood associations regarding suggested modifications so that the managed meadows concept can be implemented soon.

He reported this plan has focused on parks but there are other areas that haven't been highlighted, such as the John Nolen Drive median being turned into meadows and the portion of Pennsylvania and Packers Avenues. There is strong support from City Engineering for this real environmental plus of not having pollutants and water runoff. One strip would be mowed along the curb and the centers would be left untrimmed. A four-foot strip is mowed along bike paths in accordance with transportation standards for bike trails. He then noted Parks used to mow lots of greenways but they have gradually quit doing most of them in accordance with engineering policy. There may be other areas that weren't highlighted tonight that will change.

Chewning stated she appreciates the care the Parks Division took in sending this plan out to alders and neighborhood associations.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Chewning that the Park Commission supports the concept of expanding park meadows in city parks as described in the March 2 , 2006 staff letter sent to Alders and neighborhood associations and approves the list of proposed meadow areas with the understanding that Parks staff will continue to work with neighborhoods on details such as exact mow lines, mowed buffer areas and prairie, tree and flower plantings.

Commissioners thanked the audience for attending and speaking about their parks. They support the managed meadow concept. They noted that parks are popular but the operational budget is declining every year and parks must do more with less money every year. The cuts Parks is forced to make are painful and include not just services but staff. Neighborhood Associations need to work with Parks on reasonable compromises. It was suggested that neighbors speak with their alders since the decision to cut the budget was made at the Common Council and Mayoral level. It is important to make your opinions known. Parks Staff can only do so much with the limited resources they receive and cannot continue to maintain the services from the past. They added that the managed meadows make a great deal of sense from an ecological perspective. A suggestion was made to add volunteer participation to the motion. This suggestion was referred to staff.

The question was called. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

#### CORRESPONDENCE, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES

Request of Gregor and Bart O'Shea of the Madison Police Department to host the Day of the Dogs on Saturday, July 15, 2006 at the Warner Park Baseball Stadium.

**Registered Speaker:**

**Bart O'Shea** in support

A motion was made by Skidmore/Chewning to approve the request of Gregor and Bart O'Shea of the Madison Police Department to host the Day of the Dogs on Saturday, July 15, 2006 at the Warner Park Baseball Stadium based upon sponsor's compliance with staff recommendations. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

Request of Bob Mahnke and Paul Stokes of The Mad-City Dual to host the 2006 Mad-City Dual Endurance Barefoot Competition on Saturday and Sunday, June 3 and 4, 2006 (back-up dates June 10 & 11) with staging to begin at 7:00 a.m. at Brittingham Park.

**Registered Speaker:**

**Bob Mahnke in support**

**A motion was made by Skidmore/MacDonald to approve the request of Bob Mahnke and Paul Stokes of The Mad-City Dual to host the 2006 Mad-City Dual Endurance Barefoot Competition on Saturday and Sunday, June 3 and 4, 2006 ( back-up dates June 10 & 11) with staging to begin at 7:00 a.m. at Brittingham Park based upon sponsor's compliance with staff recommendations. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Request of Fleet Feet Sports of Madison to host a monthly Aquathon on May 25, June 15, July 20, August 24 and September 21, 2006 at Warner Park.

**Registered Speaker:**

**Matt Anderson in support  
Ryan Griessmeyer in support**

**A motion was made by Chewning/Skidmore to approve the request of Fleet Feet Sports of Madison to host a monthly Aquathon on May 25, June 15, July 20, August 24 and September 21, 2006 at Warner Park based upon sponsor's compliance with staff recommendations. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Request of Mad Rollin Dolls and Vern Stenman, General Manager of the Madison Mallards to host a Flat-track Roller Derby on August 25, 2006 at the Warner Park baseball stadium.

**Registered Speaker:**

**Vern Stenman in support**

**A motion was made by Skidmore/MacDonald to approve the request of Mad Rollin Dolls and Vern Stenman, General Manager of the Madison Mallards to host a Flat-track Roller Derby on August 25, 2006 at the Warner Park baseball stadium based upon sponsor's compliance with staff recommendations. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Request of Jason Schumacher of Trek Bicycle to host their Trek Bicycle company picnic on Thursday, August 17 and Saturday, August 19 at Breese Stevens Field.

**Registered Speaker:**

**Jason Schumacher in support**

**A motion was made by MacDonald/Skidmore to approve the request of Jason Schumacher of Trek Bicycle to host their Trek Bicycle Company picnic on Thursday, August 17 and Saturday, August 19 at Breese Stevens Field based upon sponsor's compliance with staff recommendations. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS

Proclamation in Recognition of work provided by Kenneth Haak at Kettle Pond Conservation Park.

**The Proclamation will be presented to Mr. Haak at the Spring Harbor Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting on April 20, 2006 by Russ Hefty, Parks Conservation Resources Supervisor. A motion was made by Chewning/Skidmore to approve the Proclamation in recognition of work provided by Kenneth Haak at Kettle Pond Conservation Park. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Madison Area Disc Golf Courses Proposal from Brad Wendt

**There was no one present on this item. Superintendent Morgan reported Mr. Wendt had submitted a proposal to the Mayor's office. He was informed he should speak with the Park Commission and Parks Division.**

**A motion was made by Skidmore/Chewning to place on file without prejudice the Madison Area Disc Golf Courses proposal from Brad Wendt. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

**On motion of Chewning/Skidmore the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.**