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**Sent:** Wednesday, January 21, 2026 3:04 PM  
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**Subject:** Public Comments – Agenda Items 5 and 6 regarding project charters and request for referral

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Dear Subcommittee Members,

Please find attached my public comments on two items on your January 21, 2026, agenda:

- Agenda Item 5, "Discussion of Project Charter for POSP Implementation, Reporting, and Lessons Learned," Legistar ID No. 91559
- Agenda Item 6, "Discussion of Project Charter for Partnerships," Legistar ID No. 91561

Both charters were posted to Legistar less than 24 hours before today's meeting, even though they were labeled "For Discussion and Possible Adoption." I respectfully request that the discussion of both charters be referred to the next meeting to allow adequate time for public review and comment.

I am unable to attend today's meeting.

Thank you for your consideration.



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## M E M O R A N D U M

**Date:** January 21, 2026

**To:** Long Range Planning Subcommittee of the Board of Parks Commissioners

**From:** Alex Saloutos

**CC:** Eric Knepp  
CJ Ryan

**RE:** **Public Comments on Draft Project Charter for Partnerships, Agenda Item 6, Legistar ID No. 91561. Legistar ID No. 91561**

I am writing to provide public comments on Agenda Item 6, “Discussion of Project Charter for Partnerships,” Legistar ID No. 91561, on your January 21, 2026 agenda.

### SUMMARY AND REQUESTED ACTION

I respectfully request that the subcommittee refer discussion of the charter to its next meeting to allow adequate time for public review and comment.

The draft charter was posted to Legistar less than 24 hours before this meeting, despite being labeled “For Discussion and Possible Adoption.” This timing does not allow for meaningful review by either the public or subcommittee members.

Even a brief review in the limited time available reveals significant gaps. The charter:

- does not require financial accountability or reporting;
- proposes classification and research before establishing basic policies and goals;
- omits a review of best practices, such as the National Park Service Commercial Services framework; and
- does not address current Parks Division policies that prohibit open-book compensation and competitive rebidding—policies that insulate commercial operators from competition and prevent the public from knowing whether it is receiving fair value.

### PROCESS CONCERNS: REQUEST FOR REFERRAL

The draft charter for this agenda item was completed last week, and the agenda description stated that staff “have prepared” it. However, the charter itself was not posted to Legistar until late afternoon on January 21—and then only after I asked staff to make it available—leaving less than 24 hours for the public and subcommittee members to review and comment on a document of this significance.

In addition, the charter is labeled “Draft: For Discussion and Possible Adoption.” If adoption is a possibility today, both the public and committee members should receive the materials more than a few hours before the meeting.

I have followed the commercial use of city parks for over a decade and have submitted detailed recommendations to the Board of Park Commissioners and the Common Council. Others are also engaged in these issues and should have an opportunity to provide input. Given the scope of this charter and its potential impact on how the city manages strategic partnerships, particularly the commercial use of city parks, there should be a meaningful opportunity for public review and comment before action is taken.

### **CONCLUSION**

I have been raising concerns about the commercial use of city parks, particularly at Breese Stevens Field and Warner Park, for more than a decade, including detailed comments to the Common Council in May 2024 on the proposed \$4 million investment in Breese Stevens Field.

As drafted, the charter could easily result in a classification system and a survey of what other cities do without ever addressing whether Madison is receiving fair value from its current arrangements or whether the process for entering into them is sound.