



# City of Madison

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
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## Meeting Minutes - Draft BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

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Wednesday, January 13, 2010

6:30 PM 1625 Northport Dr. # (Warner Park Community Recreation Center)

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### I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Madison Board of Park Commissioners was held on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Avenue. President Barker called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

**Present:** 6 -

Paul E. Skidmore; William W. Barker; David L. Wallner; Betty Chewing; Emanuel Scarbrough and Janet Parker

**Excused:** 1 -

Joseph R. Clausius

**Parks staff present:** Superintendent Kevin Briski, Steve Doniger, Kevin Knepp, Kay Rutledge, Jim Weinstock, Craig Klinke, Roberta Sladky, LaVonne LaFave

### II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

#### A. President of the Park Commission

President Barker opened the floor to nominations for President. A motion was made by Wallner/Chewing to nominate Bill Barker as President. A motion was made by Skidmore/Scarbrough to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Bill Barker. MOTION CARRIED with Barker abstaining. President Barker stated he really enjoys the role and thanked the Commissioners for allowing him to continue in that role. He truly loves Madison's parks.

#### B. Vice President of the Park Commission

A motion was made by Scarbrough/Chewing to nominate David Wallner as Vice President. A motion was made by Skidmore/Scarbrough to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for David Wallner. MOTION CARRIED with Wallner abstaining.

**C. Standing Committees to be appointed in February**

President Barker announced the appointments to the standing committees of the Park Commission would be made in February. He asked members to let him know if they had a preference.

**III. PARKS EMPLOYEE(S) OF THE MONTH**

Superintendent Briski announced that Craig Klinke, our East Parks General Supervisor is the January 2010 employee of the month. Klinke has a great work ethic and professional demeanor. He handles himself well with, and cares about, his staff. One of the most impressive things about Craig is that he is an effective listener and applies both what he hears and what he learns so he can relay that information to his field staff. Parks is proud to have Klinke as part of the Parks team. Craig then stated he is proud to be a part of this organization, it is constantly growing, and there are new ideas and improvements in the system. He works with a lot of wonderful people and feels great satisfaction in creating recreational opportunities for Madison's citizens. He hopes to be a part of Parks for a long time.

Chewning added that she is impressed with how open Craig is to citizen input and how well he handles situations.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Wallner, seconded by Skidmore, to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**VI. REPORTS**

**A. Minutes of the June 23, 2009 meeting of the Golf Subcommittee**

A motion was made by Wallner/Scarborough to accept the Minutes of the June 23, 2009 meeting of the Golf Subcommittee. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**B, Minutes of the September 29, 2009 meeting of the Long Range Planning (Sub)committee**

A motion was made by Wallner/Scarborough to accept the Minutes of the September 29, 2009 meeting of the Long Range Planning (Sub)committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**C. Minutes of the October 20 and November 16, 2009 meetings of the Olbrich Botanical Society**

A motion was made by Wallner/Scarborough to accept the Minutes of the October 20 and November 16, 2009 meetings of the Olbrich Botanical Society. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**D. Minutes of the July 23, 2009 meeting of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Subcommittee**

A motion was made by Wallner/Scarborough to accept the Minutes of the July 23, 2009 meeting of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Subcommittee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**E. President of the Park Commission**

President Barker thanked those citizens present for attending this meeting in order to speak to the Commissioners.

He reported that he volunteered at Olbrich Botanical Gardens during the holiday train show and found it a wonderful opportunity to get to know attendees. He is always amazed with how heavily it is used by folks and especially by the youngest members of our society. It truly is a multigenerational facility that provides park benefits for the entire community.

The Isthmus had a favorable article on the Adopt the Ice Program that is working at Westmorland. He also continues to be impressed with the progress being made on the issues at Olin Turville Park. He has seen the results of the "brush hog" working to clear underbrush there.

**F. Superintendent of Parks**

**Written Report**

A motion was made by Skidmore/Chewning to accept the written report of Supervisor's Activities. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

**Informational Items**

**Madison Parks Newsletter** - The current newsletter highlights the fact that Parks is deep into winter activities. All facilities are open and the cold temperatures in November and December allowed us to gain a foothold early

on activities. Ice is very good at all facilities and our last rink was opened at Garner today. The snow guns at Elver have been in operation. Superintendent Briski acknowledged the tremendous effort of staff, who are out in frigid temperatures to make ice. The Division has been receiving lots of e-mails and pats on the back about the cross country ski trails that are in top notch condition. Additionally, sales of cross country ski permits are up nearly 20% over last year. In response to a question regarding how the 20% raise relates in dollars, Superintendent Briski noted that the 20% may increase up to 30-35% thanks to the early cold weather.

He announced that Russ Hefty, the Conservation Services Supervisor did receive a \$10,000 grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Department that will be used for conservation work at Olin Turville Park to continue the efforts begun last fall with brush removal.

The newsletter also highlights the latest acquisition in Cherokee Marsh of uplands and an oak savannah that is a nice conservation addition to the Marsh.

The UW Badger Hockey team practiced at the Elver Park ice rink for their upcoming game at Camp Randall in February. Many kids and adults came to watch them and it was a great opportunity to promote our winter facilities.

#### Volunteer Recognition Event

The Volunteer Recognition event has been moved to March. It will be sponsored by the Madison Parks Foundation. It is important to them and to the Parks Division to collaborate on this event. It will be an opportunity to recognize employees, projects and activities sponsored by the Division and Foundation. Ultimately this will start a new tradition to become a fundraiser for the Foundation.

On a sad note, Art Johnson passed away. He was the principal Park Planner for the department for many years. His obituary was passed among Commissioners. Johnson was very much committed to sound park principles such as open space and conservation. The Madison Parks system is a great legacy to his dedication.

#### End of Year Financial Report

The Parks Division ended the year with a surplus of \$1,062 in the pool operation. Thanks were given to Brad Weisinger for his efforts at the pool. The golf courses also had their best fiscal year in a decade and should end with a surplus between \$250,000-\$275,000 that was the result of significant work on the part of the golf supervisor and some tough decisions on staffing levels. Overall, the Parks budget came in balanced.

Chewing inquired as to when the Ice Age Trail issue will be coming back to the Park Commission. Rutledge indicated that the Planning Department has requested additional time to speak with landowners regarding the Ice Age Trail and believes they will report back early in 2010.

On a final note, the various brochures of the Parks Division were distributed. They follow the same format used in the Parks Magazine and will be used in all promotional materials. The content and materials were developed in house and produced by another city agency.

**Ald. Clausius arrived following his neighborhood meeting.**

VII. COMMUNICATIONS (Correspondence, Resolutions, Ordinances)

- A. [16762](#) Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a Land Use Restriction to restrict the use of a portion of Olbrich Park as parklands devoted primarily to botanical gardens.

**A motion was made by Skidmore, seconded by Scarbrough, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. with Chewing abstaining.**

Superintendent Briski reported that this Resolution contains the formal language to approve the legal contracts carrying out the intent that was approved at the March 2009 Park Commission. The language formalizes the efforts to transfer the deed restriction from the Garver property to the property that was approved at that March 2009 meeting regarding the Olbrich Park Land Use Plan.

Registered Speakers: all in support  
Nancy Ragland – Not speaking  
Janet Loewi – not speaking  
Elizabeth Erickson – Not Speaking  
Connie Beam – Not Speaking  
Dennis Birke  
Dick Wagner  
Dan Matson

Speakers declined to comment or take a position in response to questions from Chewing on whether, at any time in the future, the Botanical Society would request further expansion beyond the parcel shown in the deed restriction. The Botanical Society has not even begun to plan on how to use this parcel. Those plans will take at least a year and then the Society would begin fundraising. The Society is first looking at development of the existing lands before they would begin to discuss plans for the parcel on the east side of Starkweather Creek.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Scarbrough to approve Resolution ID#16762 authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a Land Use Restriction to restrict the use of a portion of Olbrich Park as parklands devoted primarily to botanical gardens.

Alder/Commissioner Skidmore commenced the discussion with his recollection of when he served on the Olbrich Board when the Garver purchase was first discussed in terms of what could be done with the land. He recalled it was a contentious issue and members didn't have a concrete plan at that time but they knew they didn't want to lose the opportunity. This plan is still being worked on and he is not in favor of doing anything in terms of drawing a line beyond which the Gardens cannot expand.

Members commented that a future Park Commission as well as the

surrounding community will realize they have to balance the needs of the community as well as the needs of the Gardens. If they can do it without ego and without self interests, then everything will come out in an acceptable manner.

Chewning indicated that she understands that the transfer of the deed restriction is what's on the table. Her concern is about the next potential loss because this commission did not listen to the neighborhood or the alders. She is adamant about wanting a line drawn. A motion was made by Chewning/Parker to draw a line in the Olbrich Park Land Use Plan that conforms to the deed restriction transfer beyond which no expansion will occur for the botanical gardens in perpetuity.

Commissioners noted that the Resolution is a housekeeping issue to allow Commonwealth to move forward and any further amendment is beyond the scope of what the original agreement intended. It is not intended to constrain a future neighborhood, Council or Park Commission. It is difficult to look into the future and see what would be necessary at that time. It was also noted that Alder Rummel supports this Resolution.

Skidmore requested a roll call vote on the amendment. Wallner – Nay, Chewning – Yea, Skidmore – Nay, Parker – Yea, Clausius – Nay, Scarbrough – Nay, Barker – not voting. Motion Failed.

Returning to the original motion made by Skidmore/Scarbrough to approve Resolution ID#16762 Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a Land Use Restriction to restrict the use of a portion of Olbrich Park as parklands devoted primarily to botanical gardens. MOTION CARRIED with Chewning abstaining.

President Barker requested a five minute break at 7:38 p.m. Returning to meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Members present: Bill Barker, Betty Chewning, Ald. Joe Clausius, Janet Parker, Emanuel Scarbrough, Ald. Paul Skidmore, David Wallner

**B. [16775](#)**

Authorizing the execution of an Agreement for Installation, Operation, Maintenance and Repair of Photovoltaic Lighting System with Madison Gas and Electric Company for the installation of a demonstration photovoltaic lighting system in Thut Park, located at 2630 Nana Lane.

**This Resolution was RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER**

It was noted that MG&E is donating all of the equipment for this installation and will also be maintaining it.

- C. [16950](#) Authorizing an amendment to the contract between the City of Madison and Ken Saiki Designs, Inc., in the amount of \$62,300 for additional architectural and engineering design services for the Lisa Link Park Improvements project.

**This Resolution was RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER**

- D. [17009](#) Authorizing the execution of a Purchase Agreement with the Natural Heritage Land Trust, Inc. for the City's acquisition of lands for the expansion of the Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park and amending the 2010 Parks Capital Budget to authorize the expenditure of funds for this acquisition.

**This Resolution was RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER**

Superintendent Briski recognized Kay Rutledge who led the negotiation team on this project. President Barker thanked current landowner, Dennis Tizianni.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Revisions to Park Commission Policies

LaFave reported the revisions to the Park Commission Policies were primarily housekeeping issues to have the policies conform to the changes in committee names that occurred with the adoption of the Ordinance amending names of Committees in accordance with the Report of the CCOC Subcommittee on Committee Creation and Committee Rules. The spreadsheet listing the various committees identified each committee's charge and composition. Superintendent Briski added that the policies and spreadsheet will be shared with each committee annually. A motion was made by Clausius/Scarborough to adopt the revisions to the Park Commission Policies as shown in the document. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### B. Madison Fruits and Nuts

President Barker reported that he and fellow Commissioner, Janet Parker, have been meeting with this new group interested in promoting the planting of edible landscape in Madison's public spaces. As their dialogue continues it is beneficial to have the group officially recognized by the Park Commission. There has been a lot of enthusiasm to increase the amount of edible landscape throughout the city. Kay Rutledge, Marla Eddy and Kevin Briski were also recognized for their support of this project. The group has also been applying for state and national grants.

A motion was made by Chewning/Skidmore to refer this group to the Habitat Stewardship Committee to formulate guidelines and policies for this endeavor. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C. Fees for 2010**

A motion was made by Scarbrough/Skidmore to approve the 2010 fees for the Cemetery, Golf, Olbrich, and the Pool as distributed in the packets. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.** The garden clubs are not being assessed any fees for their use of meeting space at Olbrich.

There may be a point of confusion with the golf fees in that a discount card offers \$2 off per nine holes and there is also a discount if a round of golf is played Monday through Friday during specific hours. That will need to be clarified. Superintendent Briski noted the change in philosophy that follows industry trends where there are gaps in use, usually during the middle of the day, and this change is intended to entice golfers during those times. The \$1 per hole concept was very popular last year. There was a brief discussion regarding fees at surrounding private and public courses.

**IX. OLD BUSINESS**

**12176**

Creating Section 8.32 of the Madison General Ordinances to create policies and procedures for removal of personal property from public lands.

This Ordinance was **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO PLACE ON FILE - REPORT OF OFFICER**

Members noted that none of the sponsors had ever discussed this ordinance with any of the Park Commissioners.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.