



City of Madison

Meeting Minutes - Final

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

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

*Ald. Santiago Rosas, Ald. Paul E. Skidmore, William Barker, Randall L. Glysch,
Betty Chewning, Emanuel Scarbrough, Betty N. MacDonald*

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

6:30 PM

1625 NORTHPORT DR (WPCRC)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Madison Board of Park Commissioners was held on Wednesday, May 11, 2005 at Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Drive. Appointee Chewning called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Ald. Santiago Rosas, Ald. Paul E. Skidmore, Betty Chewning, Emanuel Scarbrough and Betty N. MacDonald

Excused: William Barker and Randall L. Glysch

Parks Staff Present: James P. Morgan, LaVonne LaFave, Elinor Riley, Ray Shane, Si Widstrand

Golf Committee Members: Tom Benson, JoAnn Walker

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathy Cole spoke about the produce man who parks along the drive into Warner Park.

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 13, 2005

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

A motion was made by MacDonald, seconded by Ald. Skidmore, to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by acclamation.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Olbrich Botanical Society Minutes of March 15, 2005

RECOMMEND ACCEPTANCE

A motion was made by Ald. Skidmore, seconded by Ald. Rosas, to accept the Minutes of the March 15, 2005 meeting of the Olbrich Botanical Society. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

The motion passed by acclamation.

1. Request of Olbrich Botanical Society to close all day on June 25, 2005 in preparation for Rhapsody in Bloom.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

**A motion was made by Ald. Skidmore, seconded by MacDonald, to approve the request Botanical Society to close all day on June 25, 2005 in preparation for Rhapsody in Bloom. MOTION CARRIED Unanimously.
The motion passed by acclamation.**

B. Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee

A motion was made by Skidmore/MacDonald to accept the Minutes of the January 26, 2005 meeting of the Facilities Programs and Fees Committee. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

1. Action Report from April 4, 2005 Meeting

a. Patron Classifications~~Resident/Town Annexation

A motion was made by Skidmore/Rosas to approve items a., b., and c. of the Action Report from the Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee Meeting of April 4, 2005. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Register Speaker: Susan Hamblin, Chair of the Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee, in Support of the actions.

Hamblin noted that while the language regarding the age designation for youth sounds confusing, it came from the covenants for the All-City Swim Meet. The hope is that the Goodman Pool will field a team to compete in the All-City Swim Meet.

Superintendent Morgan publicly thanked members of the Ad Hoc Swimming Pool Committee and the Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee who labored for a significant number of hours and many meetings on the issues of programs and fees for the new swimming pool. He felt they produced a very good package that the Parks Division would support in their 2006 budget.

Widstrand explained the dog park improvements that were presented to the Facilities, Programs and Fees (FPF) Committee. He noted there are sufficient funds in the dog permit account to cover these projects. They include the ADA paths, lighting at Sycamore and Warner, and fencing at Quann Park. Following the FPF meeting, Parks staff met with Dane County and Alliant Energy Center staff to pursue solutions for the fencing at Quann Park. The management of an access opening along the side closest to the Alliant Center and road would have gates and possibly removable fence sections to accommodate the Alliant Center during those events when they use Quann Park for overflow parking. This would also allow tennis court and garden users to get to those areas of the park. The plan is to have the fencing completed in the next year so it is ready by the time the pool opens in 2006. There was discussion regarding keeping some of the bike paths outside the dog park to enable people to get to the pool without conflict with dogs. People would also have to keep their dogs on leash when coming into the dog park along the bike paths.

He also indicated there is an area that is a little steeper where vehicles have problems during Alliant events that could possibly be fenced for a small dog area and it could also be used for all dogs during Alliant Center events, but Alliant Center staff felt the entire park had usable space for them so no final plans have been made on that portion. He then noted an area of the bike path that could be enclosed with fencing and gates that could be used as an accessible path. He asked that the Commission approve the actions of the Committee recognizing the concepts and that those details may be brought back when they are finalized.

Registered Speakers in support of dog improvements at Quann Park
Marguerite Payne, Barbara Gilligan and Judy Cline

A motion was made by MacDonald/Skidmore to approve items a. and b. of the Action Report from the Facilities, Programs and Fees Committee meeting of April 18, 2005. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

VI. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARK COMMISSION

VII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS

A. Written Report of Supervisor's Activities (Informational)

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

B. Updated Park Commission Roster

C. Update on Major Projects for Breese Stevens, Brittingham Boathouse, Goodman Pool

Superintendent Morgan reported the Planning section is gearing up for major construction projects this year that include the renovation of the Breese Stevens grandstands and area beneath the grandstands and will waterproof the building, the renovation of the Brittingham Boathouse and the construction of the Goodman Pool. Parks believes that potential partners from among those groups who want enhancements to the locker rooms at Breese Stevens may step up and there may be some fundraising for that purpose. The Brittingham Boathouse will be done in two phases. The first phase will consist of lifting and moving the boathouse to the new foundation and extending the sewer and water laterals. Phase two will be the historic renovation and a small addition to match the other end of the building. Bids will be opened on the Goodman Pool on Friday, May 13. More than 80 firms have picked up the documents and plans.

D. Special Meeting on May 25, 2005 regarding Edgewood Drive

He indicated that Betty MacDonald had produced a chronological summary of the Edgewood Drive issue that will be sent to each Commissioner. He should be receiving a compromise proposal from Ald. Golden that will also be forwarded prior to the May 25 meeting that will be held at St. May's Hospital in the same room as last year.

He then noted that the Park tour has been confirmed for the August 10 meeting date. The packet of information given to patrons reserving a picnic shelter was shared with the Commissioners.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES

- A. [01025](#) Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign and execute a seven (7) month Agreement, with the option for three one year renewal periods, for priority scheduling at specified Madison area soccer fields in exchange for the Madison Area Youth Soccer Association ("MAYSA") providing maintenance to such fields.
- A motion was made by Ald. Skidmore, seconded by Scarbrough, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by acclamation.**
- B. [01160](#) Amending Section 1.08(4) of the Madison General Ordinances to permit Park Rangers to issue citations for a limited number of offenses occurring in City of Madison parks and adding four areas of violation for which the Parks Superintendent or designee or Park Rangers can issue citations.
- A motion was made by Ald. Skidmore, seconded by Scarbrough, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by acclamation.**
- C. Resolution ID#00935 authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into a Second Amendment to the Agreement between the City and Madison Fireworks Fund, Inc. (MFF) to allow MFF to operate a full event on any rescheduled rain date.
- A motion was made by Skidmore/Rosas to approve Resolution ID#00935 authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into a Second Amendment to the Agreement between the City and Madison Fireworks Fund, Inc. (MFF) to allow MFF to operate a full event on any rescheduled rain date. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. [00963](#) The Parks Division supports the use of Odana School Park for the construction and operation of a new Westside Senior Center in Odana School Park.
- Superintendent Morgan reported staff in Community Services are working with the alder and the neighborhood association. He requested that the item be referred for one month. A motion was made by MacDonald/Rosas to refer the request of the Westside Senior Coalition use of Odana School Park for the construction and operation of a new Westside Senior Center to the June Park Commission meeting. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**
- B. E-mail request from Gary Giorgi regarding Pesticide Reduction on Madison City Golf Courses

Registered Speaker: Gary Giorgi, Supports Pesticide Reduction

In response to questions, Giorgi stated that the San Francisco Golf Course he referred to was not 100% organic, it was close to organic and there were still pesticides being used, but it is limited use. He did not know quantities. He acknowledged that he is not aware of any golf course that is totally organic and while that is ideal, it is not possible at this time. He was not aware of whether there was either a drop or increase in revenue as a result of a course switching to organic methods.

Ray Shane, Golf Program Supervisor for the Parks Division, stated that the city's golf courses are committed to providing a safe environment and are leaders in utilizing the integrated pest management philosophy. IPM has been used on the city courses for the past 15 years. The golf section is also committed to providing its customers with good turf conditions, maintaining affordable prices, and keeping the program financially responsible. The concept of having all areas of peoples' lives become pesticide free is a goal they share. The scientific community should take the lead role using their expertise, research facilities and resources to conduct those studies. Pesticides are used in several city departments. Golf was instrumental in the development of the new Pesticide Policy recently adopted by the city that clarifies several aspects of the IPM Process, including training for those who administer applications, guidelines for reporting and a panel of experts who review reports and make recommendations for improvements. This new policy should be given an opportunity to determine its impact citywide on maintenance practices.

He questioned what the term organic really means. Different standards are established by various governing agencies. Climate also plays a role in the amount and types of pesticides applied. He stated there have been attempts to maintain organic golf courses in parts of the nation but there are no organic alternatives for turf diseases and no organic alternatives for insects. He does not believe Wisconsin's climate is conducive to maintaining a pesticide free golf course that would comply with acceptable standards by golfers. Glenway would be extremely hard to use as a test course due to its age. A large financial investment would be necessary to bring it to today's standards for greens size and necessary irrigation methods. He also discussed the difficulty of providing a test hole for comparison since dedicated equipment would become necessary to eliminate carrying disease pathogens from green to green that could cause the use of additional pesticides on the remainder of the course in order to fight off the constant inoculation process. Also, mowing heights would need to be set higher to cut the test area. The golf program receives no city subsidy and cannot afford to let its equipment sit idle.

Shane then stated that as new alternatives become available annually the golf program utilizes them. This research is conducted nationally, including one of the best at the University of Wisconsin. Research on new maintenance techniques, testing safer and environmentally friendly pesticides, developing new strains of turf grasses and drought resistance continue, together with innovative ideas in golf course construction and the use of biological controls. The City of Madison Golf Program is committed to following IPM principles, being stewards of the land in conjunction with providing its customers with good playing conditions at reasonable prices. He then explained the types of conditions that warrant applications on city courses noting that the city courses follow IPM practices using the least-risk pesticides available. As research develops new products to become less dependent on present day pesticides, the courses change to those new products that are safer and smaller quantities can be used. Their goal is to use the safest, least toxic products. In the past year they have completed their environmental assessment for Audubon Society certification and have worked on creating more natural areas, protecting water, enhancing the environment, and providing habitat for wildlife.

In response to a question regarding revenue, Shane referred to an article in the paper recently regarding a request for a reduction in a patron's annual pass because of winter kill on a couple of the golf courses. The courses have signed contracts with golf leagues and have a commitment to providing courses that meet league standards. The city courses must compete with other privately owned public courses in the area that are not limited in the types of treatments they can use. If a customer base is lost, patrons may not return when turf conditions improve. There may also be additional costs for renovation. He explained the increase in the number of courses over the past 12 years. Shane then described what an enterprise means within the confines of city budgets and what happens when they do not meet their targeted budget. Superintendent Morgan interjected the weather conditions over the past two years. There is no way to recover those lost tee times due to weather and there is no way to make up that time. Shane also said people are creatures of habit and if bad weather patterns cause people to pursue other leisure activities, when the weather changes, it is very difficult to get them to come back to the courses.

A Commissioner cautioned that statements comparing golf courses and the amounts of pesticides used means nothing if quantities are not given. A fifty percent reduction from the previous year doesn't clarify how many pounds have actually been spread, just that it's less than the previous year and there is no indication of what type of program is in place. He believes the city's golf courses are committed to using as little as possible to do the best job they can.

Superintendent Morgan responded to Chewning's question of what course should be chosen to use organic methods. The Progressive Dane Task Force made three proposals. The first was education, which Parks and the Golf Courses strongly support. The second was the use of IPM and the city's golf courses are the leader of IPM in Wisconsin. The last one is to use Glenway as a laboratory and he finds that objectionable since it sets Parks up for failure. Parks has no PhD's on staff. If Parks fails in reducing the amounts that Progressive Dane would like to be achieved, Parks will be looked at as having failed because we didn't have proper educational credentials. If Parks succeeds, it will be questioned in terms of the technical data. If the study is not replicated elsewhere, it won't be worth anything in terms of credibility and scientific research methodology. He then asked where the UW was in terms of taking the lead with their golf course in view of their turf grass studies.

Chewning expressed that a partnership with the University would be a great idea. She also suggested it should be made clearer the city is moving toward organic and that it is in fact closer to Progressive Dane's proposal than it seems. Superintendent Morgan noted he has a problem with the word organic and referred to the problem with the trout stream due to 100% organic products.

Scarborough explained why Glenway was not a good choice because it is a very old course. The grasses used at old courses as well as the actual construction of the greens were not conducive to using organic methods of maintenance. When using organic methods, newer grasses respond better.

Registered Speakers;

Pesticide Reduction		
Name	Support	Oppose
Dick Mahel		XX
Don Knapp - MARGA		XX
Tom Benson - not speaking		XX
John Stier, UW Turf Grass		No indication
Wayne Kussow		neutral
Annette Czarnecki - not present	XX	
Claire Gervai	XX	
Michael Simons	XX	
Brett Schumacher	XX	
Phyllis Hasbrouck	XX	
Linda Dolan - not speaking	XX	
Dick Intlekofer	XX	
Ann Fleischli	XX	
Ian Aley	XX	
James Ward		XX
Catherine Van Susteren - not speaking	XX	

A motion was made by Skidmore/Rosas to accept the correspondence.

Discussion noted that the Parks Division and the golf program uses pesticides as little as possible and there are other city agencies that use more. There is support for an education component for IPM. There was uncertainty about designating one golf course is appropriate. It was believed there was a certain amount of informed consent by people using our facilities and it is important to let people know what is being used. The golf courses are moving in the right direction and there has been a steady reduction in pesticide use as well as a greater emphasis on the use of alternative methods and to continue improving public safety for our citizens. Concern was expressed by the implicit suggestion of speakers that staff is not making every effort to go in the same direction toward reducing pesticide use. It should be acknowledged that those supporting the recommendation toward reduction of pesticides and the Park Commission and Parks staff all have basically the same objective. A blanket statement or implication cannot be accepted that the city is not making serious efforts. If the Commission is to do something on this issue a careful review of all the data needs to be done so that the same information is compared. It was also suggested that Progressive Dane look at the amounts of pesticides used on private property in the city. Based on the annual Pesticide Report showing what is being done at the city's golf courses, Madison is a leader in reducing the level of pesticides used. The Park Commission is charged with looking for the betterment of ALL citizens of the City of Madison, not to make money at their expense.

In response to a citizen's statement that golf course green space could be better utilized in a different capacity, Skidmore noted he did not support not having golf courses because they provide more opportunities for recreation than just golf, they also provide cross-country skiing opportunities. The city courses also provide a public service at lower rates than privately owned courses.

Chewning then spoke about the city's Pesticide Committee and the policy that was adopted as a result of their hard work. Parks was a leader in reporting pesticide use and it was found that many city agencies were not even submitting reports. The policy was a real effort to establish criteria to have all city agencies submit reports. She felt there was an opportunity for public education on this issue and that clear and accurate postings occur when pesticides are being used. She also expressed the hope that the medical community would share with the Parks Division whenever there is evidence that certain products or agents should not be used.

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

A 10-minute break was requested at 8:50 p.m. The meeting was called back to order at 9:00 p.m.. with the 5 Commissioners present.

C. Quann Park

1. Request from Amy Anderson to place two topiaries in Quann Park as part of a beautification project.
- 2 Letter from Bryan Whiting and Alicia Rheal dated March 21, 2005 regarding creation of an original long-lasting thatch project.

Registered Speakers/Non-speakers, all in support:

Pamela Hathaway

Marguerite Payne, not speaking

Barb Giligan, not speaking

Alicia Pheal

The group will provide a maintenance plan to the Parks Division. Widstrand stated the Parks Division is comfortable with the proposals. An amendment to the Community Gardens lease will cover this project and the community gardeners will maintain the topiaries. They will also repair any vandalism and graffiti. It was noted that Parks staff had received a phone call from Bryan Whiting to place the request for the thatch project on file. Alicia Rheal asked that it remain on the table and provided a description of the project. The thatch project would also be included in the Community Gardens lease. A motion was made by Rosas/Skidmore to approve the topiaries and the thatch project contingent on financing. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- D. Proposal from Bob Mahnke and Paul Stokes of Mad-City Dual requesting the use of Brittingham Park on June 4 and 5, 2005 for an Endurance Barefoot Water-skiing Competition in Monona Bay.

Registered Speakers/Non-speakers:

NAME	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Karen Matteoni		XX
Paul Stokes	XX	
Teresa Larson-Jones - not speaking		XX
Scott W Jones - not speaking		XX
Bob Mahnke	XX	

Riley reported there was no new information regarding the proposal from that provided last month. The question is whether they can stage the event in the park. They can do whatever they want in the water. Approval was received

from the DNR and the Dane County Sheriff's office. Another group has reserved Brittingham Park on June 4, 2005. The sponsors contacted the neighborhood asking to attend a neighborhood association meeting, but the neighborhood did not respond to them.

A motion was made by Rosas/Skidmore to approve the proposal from Bob Mahnke and Paul Stokes at Mad-City Dual requesting the use of Brittingham Park on June 4 and 5, 2005 for an Endurance Barefoot Water-Skiing Competition in Monona Bay. MOTION CARRIED with Chewning abstaining.

A motion was made by Rosas/Scarborough to take item X. New Business, C. Baxter Park Master Plan and Community Gardens out of order. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

C. Baxter Park Master Plan and Community Gardens

Widstrand met with Community Action Coalition to determine what areas they might be interested in using for gardening. They had indicated Baxter Park as a possibility. He displayed a map of the master plan for the park showing a small area that was available. He suggested CAC contact the neighborhood association regarding their proposal.

Registered Speakers:

Joe Mathers, CAC - available to answer questions
Daniel Kerkman, Indian Springs N.A. President in Support

The Neighborhood Association surveyed the residents of the neighborhood and those that voted were not in favor of the location. They believe the Master Plan should not be changed at this time. Objections to the location were the problems with animals in the area and the belief it would need to be fenced. Widstrand stated it would help if the CAC would begin their process earlier in the season and that CAC should contact the alder and neighborhood association to solicit input from them. No action needs to be taken at this time.

The Commission returned to the regular Agenda order.

E. 2005 Preliminary Capital Budget

Widstrand distributed revisions to the 2006 capital budget proposal. It is not the final version the Division hasn't yet received direction from the Mayor's office. Those revisions include the Olbrich parking lot that will be moved to possibly 2008 and done as part of their overall expansion plan; the roof at the Garver building needs to be replaced in 2007. There are discussions about possible reuse for that building but it is a complicated process. Olbrich does have an immediate need to rebuild some of the brick paths, the reestablish drainage and build maintenance paths. Money is being recommended for another maintenance crew to handle boulevards that had been contracted out. A CAD workstation at Goodman Park (Franklin Field) Maintenance Facility can be delayed until the new facility is constructed. The Warner Park Community Rec Center roof will probably be delayed until 2006 because of time constraints in 2005 due to other major projects in process. An addition to the budget is the repaving of the Dean House parking drive.. Engineering maintains an oil recycling disposal station at that location and Parks proposes that they pay a portion of the repaving costs along with Golf and Parks. . Some other projects

may be deleted because they aren't as critical and there isn't time to do them. Those projects are a different water service for the skating maintenance at Garner Park, and the Elizabeth (a/k/a Lisa) Link Peace Park Phase One redesign that will be done in conjunction with the State Street reconstruction and the Mid-State Street Parking Ramp to be constructed there.

Next year Parks Planning will still be busy with projects carried over from this year that will probably include the pool, Breese Stevens renovation, the Goodman Park renovation, and the Brittingham Boathouse.

He then emphasized the Goodman Park Maintenance Facility that had an original price tag of \$8 million to replace what was needed. The renovation was then scaled back to \$5 million, and then \$4 million with a promise that we would get additional space in the new far Westside facility. The design for the renovation is now being completed and everyone that is there is not going to fit in the new space if required codes are complied with regarding space requirements. Another \$1 million is needed for additional space and options are being reviewed.

In the proposed 2007 capital budget, no significant changes were made. The Olbrich Lakeland side bike path will either be rebuilt or straightened out to make a bike path and parking area instead of parking along the bike path and vehicles turning around in the turf. He noted parkland would be taken for parking and parkland would be given back along some of the roadway that would be eliminated and converted into a bike path. Beginning next year, Door Creek improvements will commence using development fees. This will be similar to the development at Elver Park and progressive pieces will be accomplished each year. This will not impact the budget because the money is set-aside in development fees but it is a workload impact and will be an operational budget impact when we need to start staffing another large community park.

Finally, Superintendent Morgan noted that a few years ago the city shifted from a single year capital budget to a 5-year capital budget. The Mayor is now looking at a 10-year capital budget. This will make planning much more important because it will take longer to fit major projects into the cycle and not sacrifice the city's bond rating.

X. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Memorandum of Agreement for Purchase of Services between Community Development Block Grant Office and Parks Division regarding Grant for Mayfair Park Improvements.

Rosas thanked Widstrand and the Parks staff for their hard work with the Mayfair Neighborhood Association to facilitate the improvements at Mayfair Park. A motion was made by Skidmore/Rosas to approve the Memorandum of Agreement for Purchase of Services between Community Development Block Grant Office and Parks Division regarding Grant for Mayfair Park Improvements. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

- B. Rain Garden Proposals for Additional Areas
 - 1. Staff Presentation
 - a. Warner Park between two parking lots
 - b. Warner Beach parking lot
 - c. Elver Park softball parking lot
 - d. Odana Golf Course by new maintenance drive

Widstrand mentioned the rain garden proposals that were approved at last month's Park Commission meeting for Olin Turville and Brittingham Parks. At that meeting he mentioned other locations that had potential and those were included in this month's packet. They are Warner Park, Elver Park and Odana Golf Course. Agrecol is donating the rain garden plantings. They have also expressed an interest in donating rain garden plantings for the new Goodman Pool. Agrecol doesn't expect much in return other than informational signs that acknowledge the donation. They are not looking for a big publicity effort. These gardens will allow us to start to have an impact on the water quality in the lakes.

A motion was made by Rosas/Skidmore to approve the additional sites for Rain Gardens. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

On Motion of Skidmore/Rosas the meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.