



City of Madison

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

*Consider: Who benefits? Who is burdened?
Who does not have a voice at the table?
How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?*

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

6:30 PM

VIRTUAL

1 Call to Order/Roll Call

A meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was held virtually at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, November 5, 2025. President Miller Fienen called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Members Present: Ald. Derek Field; Ald. Carmella Glenn; Chandra Miller Fienen; and Ben Williams.

Members Excused: Moira Harrington; Catie McDonald; and Michelle Probst.

Parks Staff Present: Lisa Laschinger; CJ Ryan; Joanne Austin; Ann Shea; Dave Vetrovec; John Weichelt; Tanya Zastrow; Mike Sturm; and Adam Kaniewski.

City Staff Present: Katie Crawley, Mayor's Office; and Ryan Stenjem, City Engineering.

2 [90597](#)

Approval of the Minutes of the October 8, 2025 Board of Park Commissioners meeting

Motion made by Field, seconded by Glenn, to Approve the Minutes of the October 8, 2025 Board of Park Commissioners meeting. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

3 [90598](#)

Public Comment

There were no registrants for Public Comment.

4 Disclosures and Recusals

None.

Reports

5 President of the Park Commission

President Miller Fienen did not give a report.

6 [90611](#)

Approving Park Commission President Member Appointments to a Subcommittee of the Board of Park Commissioners

Miller Fienen introduced Stephanie Judge who has been recommended for the Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee.

Motion made by Field, seconded by Williams, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO CONFIRM UNDER SUSPENSION OF MGO 2.055. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

7 Superintendent of Parks

Interim Superintendent Lisa Laschinger stated budget process is well underway and Common Council will have final deliberations next week. Both the 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets should be completed by the end of next week. A Capital Budget amendment allows us a fencing project by Edgewood campus. The Operating Budget amendment allows creation of a Program Coordinator position that will work to activate spaces at the Goodman Pool and the surrounded parks on the south side with the goal of violence prevention. Reservations for 2026 have started. Burn season is underway and going well due to great staff and weather conditions. GLEAM at the Olbrich Botanical Gardens had 38,000 visitors. The golf season is winding down and Laschinger acknowledged Golf Director Dave Vetrovec and his team for another record-breaking year at our courses. She announced that this is her last Park Commission meeting as the Interim Parks Superintendent and expressed her gratitude to the Park Commissioners and Parks team for their support during this transitional year. Superintendent Eric Knepp will return to the Parks Division on December 1, 2025.

8 [90599](#)

Accepting the November 2025 Superintendent's Report

Public Information Officer Ann Shea provided the section report for the Public Information Office and was available to answer questions.

Vetrovec provided the section report for Golf Operations and was available to answer questions.

Motion made by Field, seconded by Glenn, to Accept the Report. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

9 [90600](#)

Accepting the Report of the Minutes of the September 17, 2025 Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee and October 6, 2025 Facilities, Programs and Fees meetings

Motion made by Glenn, seconded by Field, to Accept the Report. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

10 **New Business**

11 [90659](#) Accepting the John Nolen Drive Watershed Study: Recommendations and Final Report

 Ryan Stenjem of City Engineering presented the final report and was available to answer questions.

Motion made by Williams, seconded by Glenn, to Approve. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

12 [88192](#) Approving the Friends of Ridgewood Trails (FoRT) Friends Group Application

Volunteer Coordinator John Weichelt provided a brief update of the FoRT group and was available to answer questions.

Motion made by Field, seconded by Glenn, to Approve the Application. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

13 [88537](#) Approving the Friends of Olbrich Park Friends Group Application

Weichelt provided and overview of work performed by the Friends of Olbrich Group and was available to answer questions.

Motion made by Williams, seconded by Field, to Approve the Application. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

14 [90419](#) Informational Presentation from Staff Announcing the Kick-Off for the Olbrich Botanical Gardens Comprehensive Master and Interpretive Plans

Miller Fienen asked for this item to be moved to later in the agenda. No objections.

This item was taken after Agenda No. 17, Leg. File 90620.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens Director Tanya Zastrow provided a presentation and was available to answer questions.

15 [90637](#) Approving Report Establishing Archaeological Review and Investigation Process for Park Development Projects at Vilas Park

Planning and Development Manager Adam Kaniewski provided an overview of the plan, process, and approach and was available to answer questions.

Motion made by Field, seconded by Williams, to Approve the Report. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

- 16 [90602](#) Informational Presentation of the Midtown Commons Park Master Plan
- Parks Planning and Development Project Manager Mike Sturm provided an overview of the engagement and planning efforts, requested feedback, and answered questions.**
- 17 [90620](#) Informational Presentation on the Starkweather Park Development Plan Process
- Laschinger provided an introduction and Kaniewski provided a presentation. Both were available to answer questions.**
- 18 [90596](#) Informational Update on the 2025 Parks Division Workplan (Citywide)
- Assistant Superintendent CJ Ryan provided an overview of the workplan and answered questions.**
- 19 **Adjournment**
- Motion made by Williams, seconded by Glenn, to Adjourn at 9:07 PM. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**