



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, July 13, 2022

6:30 PM

Virtual

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was held virtually at 6:30PM on Wednesday, July 13, 2022. President Gnam called the meeting to order at 6:34PM. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Members Present: Ald. Syed Abbas; Ald. Yanette Figueroa Cole; Emily Gnam; Moira Harrington; Madelyn Leopold; Chandra Miller Fienen; and Catie McDonald Shannon.

Parks Staff Present: Eric Knepp; Lisa Laschinger; Joanne Austin; Ann Shea; Ann Freiwald; and Tanya Zastro.

City Staff Present: Brent Pauba and Chris Petykowski, City Engineering and Greg Mickells, Madison Public Library.

72303

Approval of the Minutes of the June 8, 2022 Board of Park Commissioners Meeting.

Motion made by Leopold, seconded by Miller Fienen to Approve with the spelling of Miller Fienen's name in item 10 (Leg. File 71895) corrected. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

72302

Public Comment

Registered Speaker Paul Noeldner of Friends of Hartmeyer Natural Area spoke regarding preservation of natural areas and was in support of item 15 (Leg. File 72296) and opposed item 16 (Leg. File 72259).

Registered Speaker Barbara Noeldner opposed items 16 (Leg. File 72296) and item 19 (Leg. File 72434).

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

REPORTS**President of the Park Commission**

Opening of The Glen Golf Park this past Sunday went really well, looked to be well-attended and had good coverage. Doug Moe's article was a nice way to tell the story of the park. Gnam expressed appreciation to the Madison Parks Foundation for making it happen. They and Parks have done a great job. Welcomed Catie McDonald Shannon to the Park Commission. Summer is a good time to be in parks. Forward Madison is having a good season. The June 13th storm damaged many trees across the city, asked Superintendent Eric Knepp to make some comments regarding the storm and the tree damage. Explained subcommittee assignment changes and shared that Madelyn Leopold will be ending her tenure with the Park Commission by the end of the year and expressed gratitude towards Madelyn's service.

Alder Abbas inquired about exploring condensing the subcommittees in the next 2 or 3 months. There should be discussion about the impact of ending some of them, exploring benefits, and unintended consequences.

72426

Park Commission President's Board Member Appointments to Subcommittees of the Board of Park Commissioners.

Motion made by Harrington, seconded by Figueroa Cole, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO CONFIRM UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULES 2.04, 2.05, 2.24 & 2.25. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

72699

Superintendent of Parks

Knepp provided the Superintendent Report. Gave an update regarding the storm damage from June and the Parks Team response. Over 275 trees were impacted and many of those were lost. Knepp and Miller Fienen provided a brief update regarding the Lake Monona Waterfront competition and encouraged Commissioners to engage in the selection of firms. LMW is on an aggressive schedule to meet the John Nolen Drive project timeline in order to be able to secure federal funding for the project. Assistant Superintendent Lisa Laschinger provided a brief update regarding the reopening of The Glen Golf Park Grand Opening went well with approximately 800 in attendance.

72297

July 2022 Superintendent's Report

Olbrich Botanical Gardens Director Tanya Zastrow presented the OBG quarterly report. Motion made by McDonald Shannon, seconded by Figueroa Cole, to Accept the Report. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

72298

Approval of the Minutes of the May 17, 2022 Olbrich Botanical Society meeting.

Motion made by Miller Fienen, seconded by Abbas, to Approve the Minutes. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

NEW BUSINESS**72512**

Olbrich Park Paved Path from Lakeland Avenue to Atwood Avenue

Knepp and Planning and Development Manager Ann Freiwald presented **OPTION 3A** , an overview of the staff findings and recommendations, and were available to answer questions.

Registered speaker Monica A Host spoke in support of an accessible path and in opposition of Park staff recommendations.

Registered speaker Lou Host-Jablonski spoke in opposition of Park staff recommendations and was given permission to present a PDF emailed to pacommission@cityofmadison.com.

72530

Glenway Woods Master Plan Update

Freiwald introduced the project and provided a brief summary of the process, including applying for a grant from National Parks Service through Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance Program for area that has not officially had a plan or been classified as a specific use type. Introduced Mike Mencarini from NPS who provided an overview of the services and support that will be provided to the Parks Division and the project.

72239

Renaming of Kerr-McGee Park

Knepp presented the request from Olbrich Botanical Society & Madison Parks Foundation to rename Kerr-McGee Park. It does not appear the parcel was ever formally named Kerr-Mcgee. R. Richard "Dick" Wagner was part of a team that advocated for park land and was a dedicated volunteer that cared for the park. Mr. Wagner was a major contributor to OBG and an icon in the LGBTQ+ community both, including documenting the community through various stories he authored. The Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee recommended Park Commission approval of renaming at their last meeting.

Alder Michael Verveer sent his regrets. He was unable to attend tonight, but strongly supports this request.

Motion made by Leopold, seconded by Abbas, to Approve the Renaming of Kerr-McGee Park to R. Richard Wagner Park. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

An official naming ceremony will be held in late September, near Dick's birthday.

[72217](#)

Renaming of Yahara River Parkway Paved Path

Freiwald presented the request to rename the Yahara River Parkway Paved Path. Mr. Ed Jepsen was a strong leader in the improvement of the Yahara River Parkway bike path, including the bridges under East Johnson Street. The name "Ed Jepsen Way" is at the request of the requesting committee to speak towards Mr. Jepsen's way of living. He was very involved in Parks Long Range Planning for many years and was influential in a number of existing key policies. Former Parks Assistant Superintendent Kay Rutledge reached out to voice support of this request. He also played a key role in the Dog Park policy. The Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee recommended Park Commission approval of renaming at their last meeting.

Motion made by Leopold, seconded by Harrington, to Approve the Renaming of the Yahara River Parkway bike path to Ed Jepsen Way. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

[72296](#)

Request from DNR Snapshot Wisconsin Volunteer, Hope Nye, to Place One Trail Camera in Warner Park For Purposes of Monitoring and Studying Wildlife Populations

Knepp introduced the request. Hope Nye of Snapshot Wisconsin presented the request

Registered Speaker Paul Noeldner of FUN (Friends of Urban Nature) spoke in support during Public Comment.

Motion made by Abbas, seconded by Figueroa Cole, to Approve the Request. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

[72259](#)

Amending Section 10.101(1)(b) to allow staff the ability to prune or remove City trees in greenways when necessary.

Alder Abbas confirmed that Common Council Withdrew this item on July 12, 2022 so no action needed.

There were 10 Registrants in opposition, but none of them spoke.

[72557](#)

Board of Park Commissioners approval of the City's acquisition of the property located at 13 Lakeshore Court for future assemblage with Olin Park. (13th A.D)

Motion made by Abbas, seconded by Figueroa Cole, to Place on File without Prejudice. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

[72435](#)

Reindahl Park Master Plan Process Update

Freiwald provided an update of the Reindahl Park Master Plan process. Attempting to get a meeting scheduled for late August with the intention to bring a draft Master Plan to the September Park Commission meeting.

Registered speaker Jon Becker spoke in opposition.

[72434](#)

Imagination Center at Reindahl Park Project Update

Brent Pauba of City Engineering provided an update on the efforts of the ICRP, Greg Mickells of Madison Public Library, and Knepp. Pauba and Mickells were available to answer questions.

**Registrant Chuck Litweiler was in opposition.
Registrant Barbara Noeldner was in opposition.**

[72554](#)

Updating and Confirming the Board of Park Commissioners meeting location for August 10, 2022 and September 7, 2022

**August 10, 2022 will be held in-person at the Olin Facility at 330 Lakeside St.
September 7, 2022 will be held in-person at Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave.**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Miller Fienen, seconded by Figueroa Cole to Adjourn at 10:33 PM. Motion passed by voice vote/other.