

Ideas for future LRP topics and tasks

November 9, 2018

Meeting Attendees: Kay Rutledge, Steve Webster, Madelyn Leopold, Ann Freiwald

These meeting notes reflect the discussion on possible work items for the LRP in 2019.

Dogs in Parks policy (expansion of dogs on-leash in parks):

Off-Leash Dog Park Design Guidelines Policy was developed and adopted in 2016. The policy also provided direction on how one may allow off leash dog walking in certain parks. Parks staff would like LRP to help with the development of a policy for allowing dogs on-leash to the majority, if not all parks in the system. This would require a change to the Madison General Ordinance. The issue will need careful community engagement and consideration (a survey and at least two public input meetings). Should there be areas where dogs are not allowed, such as playgrounds and beaches?

Volunteer Policy/Friends Groups:

Approved in 2014, the existing volunteer policy is too narrow in focus. Madison Parks has a variety of types of volunteers and volunteering that goes on in the parks. There are many Friends groups but no framework or formal, consist process to help them succeed or to create yearly work plans.

Public art in parks:

Parks staff frequently receives requests to place public art in the parks. While the city has guidelines for public art, there isn't a parks policy to guide the decision-making on these requests when the site for the art is a park. Some questions the LRP could consider include:

- Where does the demand come?
- What is the current distribution geographically of art in the park?
- Can art help us with place making?
- What are our resources to care for these art pieces?
- How should the relationship work with the Madison Arts Council and Public Arts staff?
- Are there ways to encourage public participation in art making?

Partnerships/Madison Parks Foundation/Olbrich Botanical Society/MSCR and other nonprofits:

The POSP discusses partnerships a lot, how should this be operationalized? Another discussion related to partnerships is how should nonprofit partnerships be treated versus commercial partnerships?

- Is there a model for how a 501(c)3 organization can work with a taxing body?
- Who defines what the Foundation's initiatives are?
- Neighborhoods want things but cannot afford them, is it MPF's role to help them out?
- Adopt Ice initiatives, Nice Rink at Sunset Park, equity in system

Committee gardens and bluebird trails and where to allow them:

Two potential approaches to this issue were discussed:

- Planning ahead and determining in advance where certain uses are allowed
- Setting standards for decision making and considering each request as it comes in

Events:

Efforts to date have been focused on Street Use Permits, process has gone through the RESJI process, ordinance changes are going through the approval process. Implementation of these changes in 2019 will help to inform a similar evaluation of Park Events in 2020.

Other things for the LRP to consider:

- Framing things from the POSP plan, using the lenses and the strategies spelled out in the plan to guide the long term and short term work plan and day-to-day decision making.
- Bike singletrack network and bike playgrounds - Currently bikes are not allowed off paved paths in parks. Staff is working on a network of singletrack trails in greenways and parks they would act as a recreational feature and a transportation feature. Some communities have built bike playgrounds (a.k.a. pump tracks) these are built at child size and meant for children under 12.
- Madison has an aging population, how should Madison Parks serve this population?
- Does Madison Parks communicate with and coordinate with surrounding communities and the county in terms of open space and park planning and program offerings? If we already do, can we improve upon this effort?
- Can the agendas be structured so there is time to learn about on-going issues facing the Parks Division and time to work on assigned projects?
- How many projects can LRP take on at a time? Project Descriptions to be completed for each to help define scope and schedule for each project.
- How should the workload be divided between LRP and staff? Staff lead with point person from LRP for guidance and direction? LRP member doing the work?