



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Draft 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, September 22, 2021

6:30 PM

Via Virtual Meeting

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was held virtually at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, September 22, 2021. President Gnam called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Members Present: Ald. Yanette Figueroa Cole; Emily Gnam; Moira Harrington; Madelyn Leopold; and Chandra Miller Fienen.

Members Excused: Ald. Syed Abbas.

Parks Staff Present: Eric Knepp; Lisa Laschinger; Christopher Peguero; Ann Freiwald; Greg Genin; Joanne Austin; Ann Shea; Marty Petillo; and Corey Stelljes.

City Staff Present: Katie Crawley, Mayor's Office; Dan Johns, Community Development Authority; and Ald. Gary Halverson.

[67416](#)

Approval of the Minutes of the August 11, 2021 Board of Park Commissioners meeting.

Motion made by Leopold, seconded by Harrington, to Approve the Minutes of the August 11, 2021 Board of Park Commissioners. Motion passed by the following vote.

Approve – Figueroa Cole, Leopold, Harrington, Leopold.

Abstain – Miller Fienen.

[67418](#)

Public Comment

Registered Speaker Laura Vogel spoke about noise at Burrows Park.

Registrant Karen Christianson submitted written comments about problems at Marshall Park.

Registrant Pamela Hanson-Stewart submitted written comments about noise at Burrows Park.

Registrant Ellen Ryerson submitted written comments about noise at Burrows Park.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

REPORTS

President of the Park Commission

President Emily Gnam reported that she had met the new Olbrich Gardens Director. The Mayor released a blog post with updates about the Reindahl encampment. Gnam highlighted item #67068 on the agenda and encouraged the commissioners to engage in discussion; as similar items are expected to come before the Park Commission later in the year. Next month, there will be an item discussing private funding and corporate sponsorships. A survey recently went out to Commissioners, as staff are working to set up a Glenway Golf Park tour for late September.

Superintendent of Parks

Superintendent Eric Knepp reported that the Mayor's Executive Capital Budget was released. Notable items in the budget include the Warner Park Community Recreation Center expansion, recreational biking, lakeshore work at Olbrich/Starkweather, and a reduction in the Vilas Park Masterplan. The Goodman Pool and Waves had a great year. The golf season is going very well and construction continues at Glenway. Knepp and Assistant Superintendent Christopher Peguero answered questions about plans for the Imagination Center at Reindahl Park.

[67421](#)

September 2021 Superintendent's Report

Operations Manager Greg Genin presented the Operations quarterly report.

Motion made by Miller Fienen, seconded by Figueroa Cole, to Accept the Report. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

[67455](#)

Report of the Minutes of the August 17, 2021 Olbrich Botanical Society.

Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Miller Fienen, to Accept the Minutes. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion made by Harrington, seconded by Leopold, to Approve by Consent Agenda No. 11, Legislative File No. 67056; No. 13, Legislative File No. 67093; and No. 15, Legislative File No. 66787. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

[67056](#)

Authorizing the acceptance of ownership from the Ridgewood Neighborhood Association of a "Little Free Library" located in Glacier Hill Park at 1018 Glacier Hill Drive. (17th AD)

Motion made by Harrington, seconded by Leopold, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

[67093](#)

Authorizing the City's acceptance of ownership from the Walnut Grove Homes Association of the existing Walnut Grove neighborhood sign and decorative landscape garden located within Walnut Grove Park near the N. Westfield Road and Southwick Circle intersection. (9th AD)

Motion made by Harrington, seconded by Leopold, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

[66787](#)

Authorizing the acceptance of ownership from Summit Woods Neighborhood Association of an informational kiosk, two benches, perennial flower garden and decorative landscaping located in Mohican Pass Triangle Park at 1001 Mohican Pass. (10th A.D.)

Motion made by Harrington, seconded by Leopold, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

[67458](#)

Madison Bicycle Adventure Trail Feasibility Study and Concept Plan

Planning and Development Manager Ann Freiwald and Project Engineer Corey Stelljes presented the report and answered questions.

John Augspurger of Capital Off Road Pathfinders spoke in support.

Motion made by Miller Fienen, seconded by Leopold, to Accept the Report. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

[67068](#)

Surplus Designation for 837 Hughes Place

Knepp introduced the item.

Community Development Authority Housing Development Specialist Dan Johns spoke about the space and possible uses for low-income housing.

Motion made by Miller Fienen, seconded by Figueroa Cole:

The Commission recognizes the need for the City to address access to affordable housing in South Madison as represented by the CDA's proposal. The Commission supports the focus of City resources on the Cypress Spray Park and the Lincoln School property to better address the Parks needs of residents of the area consistent with the 2018-2023 Adopted Park and Open Space Plan.

Therefore in recognition of the overarching public benefit of additional low income housing, and the opportunity presented by greater park access and amenities in close proximity, the Commission is willing in this case to set aside its policy against removing parkland from the system. The Board of Park Commissioners hereby declares Hughes Park surplus to the needs of the park system.

Motion passed by voice vote/other.

[67488](#)

Authorizing the Park Superintendent to Approve Certain Park Event Permits Temporarily Due to Ongoing COVID Restrictions That Will Allow Events and Encourage Use of Park Spaces for Economic Recovery

Assistant Superintendent Lisa Laschinger presented the item.

Motion made by Leopold, seconded by Figueroa Cole, to Approve.

Motion passed by voice vote/other.

[65740](#)

Creating Subdivision 8.24(1)(jj) of the Madison General Ordinances to Ban Alcohol at Reindahl Park.

Knepp presented the item.

Motion made by Leopold, seconded by Harrington, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO PLACE ON FILE - REPORT OF OFFICER. Motion passed by the following vote:

Approve (4) – Figueroa Cole, Leopold, Harrington, Leopold.

Abstain (1) – Miller Fienen.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Harrington, seconded by Miller Fienen, to Adjourn at 9:39 PM.

Motion passed by voice vote/other.