



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 10, 2024

6:30 PM

VIRTUAL

1 CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was held virtually at 6:30PM on Wednesday, July 10, 2024. President Harrington called the meeting to order at 6:35PM. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Members Present: Ald. Yanette Figueroa Cole; Moira Harrington; Catie McDonald; Chandra Miller Fienen; Ald. Charles Myadze; Michelle Probst; and Ben Williams.

Parks Staff Present: Eric Knepp; Lisa Laschinger; CJ Ryan; Joanne Austin; Ann Freiwald; Tanya Zastrow; Chad Hughes; and Adam Kaniewski.

City Staff Present: Jessica Price, Mayor's Office; Aaron Canton and Nashaly Gutierrez Vazquez, Engineering.

2 [84308](#)

Approval of the Minutes of the June 12, 2024 Board of Park Commissioners meeting.

Motion made by Myadze, seconded by McDonald, to Approve the Minutes of the June 12, 2024 Board of Park Commissioners meeting. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

3 [84309](#)

Public Comment

Registered speaker Alexander Anderson was unavailable during Public Comment (Agenda Item #3) so spoke after the Presidents Report (Agenda Item 5) in opposition to the removal of loose children's toys in specific parks.

4 DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

REPORT

5 President of the Park Commission

President Harrington discussed the impact of fireworks on the community and alternatives, but recognized the importance of them to the community and ongoing dilemmas. Common Council President Figueroa Cole discussed a major issue with un-permitted events at Elver Park. Miller Fienen discussed that the City of Monona is not likely to offer fireworks next year and that this may impact fireworks within Madison parks.

6 Superintendent of Parks

Superintendent Eric Knepp mentioned changes to the typical August Park Commission meeting, which has historically been a tour of parks. Knepp updated the Commission on Operating Budget directions and process. The Commission will be briefed in August regarding the Parks Agency submission. All 5 of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center expansion project bids were over budget. Knepp recognized July as Parks & Rec Month and staff for their service.

7 [84310](#) July 2024 Superintendent's Report

Olbrich Botanical Gardens Director Tanya Zastrow presented the quarterly report.

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

8 [84311](#) Report of the Minutes of the June 26, 2024 Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee and the June 18, 2024 Olbrich Botanical Society.

Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Williams, to Approve the Minutes. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

9 NEW BUSINESS

10 [84179](#) Adoption of the Warner Park Southeast Recreation Area Development Plan

Landscape Architect Adam Kaniewski briefed the commission on changes to the plan since June, including input from the neighborhood.

Registered speaker Beth Sluys spoke in opposition of the current plan.

Motion made by Myadze, seconded by Williams, to Approve the Development Plan.

11 [84158](#) Approving the construction of a bike path on the Northeast Park to connect Tancho Drive to the Underpass of 151

Nashaly Gutierrez Vasquez and Aaron Canton of City Engineering presented and were available to answer questions.

Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by McDonald, to Approve. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

12 [84317](#) Request from City of Madison Sustainability Office to Install Air Quality Monitoring Stations in 5 parks.

Jessica Price, Sustainability and Resilience Manager from the Mayor's Office, provided an overview of the program and request to install monitors in 5 different parks.

Registered speaker Beth Sluys spoke in opposition, wanting there to be a monitor installed in Warner Park also.

Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by McDonald, to Approve. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

13 [83872](#)

Authorizing the execution of agreements and associated easements with Madison Gas and Electric Company relating to the installation, operation, maintenance and repair of electric vehicle charging stations at the Yahara Hills Golf Course. (District 16)

Assistant Superintendent Lisa Laschinger provided overview of proposed agreement and answered questions.

Price answered questions regarding EV charging strategies across the City

Motion made by Miller Fienen, seconded by Figueroa Cole, to RETURN TO LEAD WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

14 [84319](#)

Adopting the Board of Park Commissioners Policy for Private Art and Expressive Displays in Parks

Assistant Superintendent CJ Ryan provided overview of updates since last draft reviewed by Board of Park Commissioners and was available to answer questions.

Motion made by Myadze, seconded by Probst, to Approve the policy. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

15 [84320](#)

Confirming location and/or format and time of the Board of Park Commissioners August 14, 2024 meeting.

Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Probst, to conduct the August Board of Park Commissioners meeting virtually at the regular time of 6:30 PM.

16 **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Myadze, to Adjourn at 8:54 PM. Motion passed by voice vote/other.