



# City of Madison

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
www.cityofmadison.com

## Meeting Minutes - Approved BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

---

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

6:30 PM

Warner Park Community Recreation Center  
1625 Northport Dr.

---

The regular meeting of the Madison Board of Park Commissioners was held on Wednesday, March 9, 2011 at Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Avenue. President Wallner called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Parks staff present: Superintendent Kevin Briski, Steve Doniger, LaVonne LaFave  
City staff present: John Reimer, Engineering; Bryan Cooper, Facilities & Sustainability, Engineering; Ray Harmon, Mayor's office  
Alders present: Ald. Marsha Rummel, Ald. Judy Compton

### I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 7 -

Madelyn D. Leopold; Joseph R. Clausius; Paul E. Skidmore; William W. Barker; David L. Wallner; Betty Chewning and Emanuel Scarbrough

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Clausius/Skidmore to approve the February 9, 2011 Minutes of the regular meeting of the Park Commission. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Registered speakers:

Si Widstrand Need for Conservation staff  
Timothy Garrett Wild Warner

A request was made to address the issues raised in Widstrand's letter regarding the use of volunteers and to increase the budget for conservation parks at a future meeting. A request was made to place the issue of Wild Warner and the Geese Committee on the April Park Commission agenda.

**IV. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS**

There were no disclosures or recusals by members of the Commission for any item on the agenda.

**V. REPORTS**

**A. Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee Minutes of December 14, 2010 meeting**

A motion was made by Scarbrough/Leopold to accept the Minutes of the December 14, 2010 meeting of the Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.** Leopold reported that the Subcommittee has been discussing the likelihood of an EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) infestation and how to deal with it.

**B. Long Range Planning Subcommittee ~~ Oral Report from January 31, 2011 meeting**

Superintendent Briski reported that the primary focus of the January 31, 2011 meeting was a discussion about the Park and Open Space Plan update. The issues of parking in park parking lots and behavior in the parks will be on a future agenda.

**C. Olbrich Botanical Society**

A motion was made to take item VI. I. Resolution ID#21551 out of order in conjunction with the request by Olbrich. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A motion was made by Barker/Skidmore to approve the request of Olbrich Botanical Society to close all day on June 18, 2011 in preparation for Rhapsody in Bloom. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Scarbrough invited everyone to attend the Spring Flower Show at Olbrich that is now open. The show is very nice and features bicycles.

**21551**

To extend the closing hours at Olbrich Botanical Gardens to 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 18, 2011 for the 24th annual Rhapsody in Bloom benefit dinner and dance. ADs 6 & 15

**This Resolution was RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER**

A motion was made by Barker/Skidmore to approve Resolution ID#21551 To extend the closing hours at Olbrich Botanical Gardens to 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 18, 2011 for the 24th annual Rhapsody in Bloom benefit dinner and dance. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**D. President of the Park Commission**

President Wallner reported the John Nolen Corridor Task Force met in late February and received reports from various city staff regarding plans for the different parcels along that corridor. They also received updates regarding activities at the Alliant Energy Center by Deb Archer. Their next public meeting will be Saturday, March 19, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Alliant Energy Center.

He also attended a meeting regarding Central Park. Barker reported that on March 2 there was both a Task Force meeting and a public meeting to review the new conceptual plans by Lorna Jordan. There were several concerns mentioned at the task force meeting that were partially addressed by the time of the public meeting. Another task force/public meeting will be held on March 30. The architects are familiar with soil amenities needed for community gardens. There was a great deal of advocacy for community gardens and there is an area that is set aside for them. It was noted that a lot of edible landscaping has been specified for the park. However, the garden advocates are upset that the area for gardens was not expanded when another small parcel was purchased. The skate park folks were also at that meeting.

He attended the "Toast for Tenney" event during which John Wall accepted recognition for his donation for the new Pavilion.

Finally he noted that the Parks Foundation is going through some changes. A retreat was held about a month ago to discuss new directions and the possibility of professional staff to take the Foundation to the next level. The Chair resigned recently and the mission is changing. One problem that has been discussed is the 2% fee assessed to all donations which makes some people hesitant about making donations. They also discussed the whole fundraising strategy. It is important to be thinking about these items because of current financial pressures for all governmental entities. Members definitely want it to survive and public support will be more important than ever. What is the relationship of the Parks Division to the Foundation is one of the main issues. Tripp Widder, the President of the Library Board, was invited to speak to the Parks Foundation about the relationship between the library and their Board.

**E. Superintendent of Parks**

1. [21600](#) Written Report of Supervisor's Activities

A motion was made by Skidmore/Clausius to accept the written report of Supervisor's Activities. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. Informational Items

Superintendent Briski stated that the Madison Parks Newsletter will be distributed electronically in the next week or so. He reminded everyone that the Volunteer Recognition Event is on March 14 at 6:00 p.m. at Olbrich

Botanical Gardens. This is the second year in a row it is being sponsored by the Madison Parks Foundation.

There have been 3 public meetings as well as more than 1500 responses to the Parks and Open Space Plan survey. The deadline was extended to March 4. It was e-mailed to over 6,000 people via Listservs, published in the Wisconsin State Journal and Cap Times and listed on our Parks web page. Hard copies were also distributed to all 9 libraries, 16 community centers and two senior centers.

Parks had another successful winter as reflected by the thousands of winter activity users. More than \$70,000 was earned in our concession operations in 2010 which is up from \$43,000 in 2008. Unfortunately the warm weather in February caused the closing of the ice rinks. Staff has done a terrific job.

Finally the Commissioners indicated that providing the link to large volume files instead of making hard copies was sufficient.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Skidmore/Clausius to take item E , ID#21584, out of order. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### 21584

Request by the Madison Veterans for Peace Chapter 25 for a gravestone display, from Saturday, May 28 - Saturday, June 5, 2011 using of a section of Olbrich Park, based on the attached. (AD 6 & 15)

Registered Speakers, all in support:

John Carey

Will Williams

Gail Price – not speaking

A motion was made by Chewning/Scarborough to approve the request by the Madison Veterans for Peace Chapter 25 for a gravestone display, from Saturday, May 28 – Saturday, June 5, 2011 using of a section of Olbrich Park subject to organizer's compliance with all conditions.

- A. Resolution ID#21445 Commending and congratulating Alderperson Marsha Rummel on receiving the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council's Award for "Distinguished Service - Elected Official."

Superintendent Briski reported that Ald. Rummel's name was nominated by City Forester Marla Eddy because of her support of the Ordinance addressing the protection of trees during construction. Alder Rummel stated that she was very honored to receive this statewide award and thanked both Superintendent Briski and City Forester Eddy for their work in drafting language for the ordinance. (Applause)

- B. 21582

Vern Stenman President of Madison Mallards preliminary proposal to host a

concert on June 4, 2011 at Warner Park Baseball Field. (AD 12 & 18)

Registered Speaker, in support:  
Vern Stenman

Superintendent Briski noted that the Parks Division recommends approval of the proposed concert.

A motion was made by Barker/Clausius/Leopold to approve the request of Vern Stenman President of Madison Mallards to host a concert at Warner Park Baseball Field on June 4, 2011 or another date that is agreeable with the Parks Division based upon the availability of the band, subject to organizer's compliance with all conditions. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. [21616](#)

Pilot Projects to Reduce Algae Scums and Bacteria at Beaches

The pilot project to reduce algae scum and bacteria at beaches was first presented last year by the Engineering Division to improve water quality at our beaches. This pilot project covered B.B. Clarke and Bernie's Beaches and the program was very successful in bringing life and vitality to those two beaches. This presentation proposes an expansion of the program to Brittingham beach, based on last year's model.

Registered Speaker:  
John Reimer, City Engineering in support

Maps showing the deflectors from B.B. Clarke and Bernie's Beach were presented. The deflectors keep the particles, weeds and algae away from the beach areas. In addition to repeating the program at B.B. Clarke and Bernie's Beaches, Engineering is interested in adding Brittingham Beach to this project. Last year a floating boom hung down in the water two feet and this year the enclosure for Brittingham will extend all the way to the bottom of the lake, allowing for the separation of lake water and beach water. The goal is to create a swimming pool in the lake. This could not be done last year because if the water inside wasn't treated, contaminants could grow inside. Engineering proposes to treat the water within the floating curtain enclosure with filtration and a UV system to kill pathogens. The water would be carried via pipes into a trailer for treatment. The water goes thru the filtration portion to remove the particles before it goes thru the UV treatment so the particles don't shade the pathogens. The UV treatment will kill the pathogens and destroys the DNA so that no mutation of the bacteria could occur. The program is in the testing mode and if it works could be expanded to the remaining city beaches, especially Vilas Beach. The enclosure will be installed from the shore and moved out to keep all aquatic life (fish) out.

Engineering does not anticipate replacing the floating booms with enclosures at the various locations because of the types of wave action. With the enclosure extending all the way to the bottom of the lake there is a great deal of water pressure against the enclosure necessitating tons of anchors to keep it in place. It was noted that the winds did not destroy the enclosure in Lake Wingra because it was very securely anchored and the long shore wind on Lake Wingra was much less of a force, so the fetch distance is much different.

Also the water is much shallower in Lake Wingra so the waves don't grow as high.

In response to additional questions: the booms are taken out in the fall and can be reused; and the fiscal note for this project is \$75,000. Finally, the weeds that are being deflected go back out into the lake and the winds push them further downstream.

Registered Speaker:

Marie Jacobson                      opposes Lack of access to diving dock

Superintendent Briski reported the Risk Manager felt there was significant liability to having the diving dock last year because the lifeguards would be on one side of the enclosure/deflector and the diving dock would be on the other side. It is not possible to expand the screen to include the diving dock because of the depth of the lake and because of the distance that would be needed. Last year it was determined that it was a tradeoff between water quality and the diving platform. Commissioners asked for consideration of the diving platform at B.B. Clarke. They were told it would not be safe to install and would be an attraction that would induce people to go under the enclosure/deflector. People would use inappropriate access to the water to reach it and it would also be outside of the lifeguard supervision area. The topography outside of the beach area is also not conducive to alternate access due to steep slopes and riprap. Unfortunately the data showing whether the beach numbers were up, down or the same were not available at the meeting. Staff was asked to investigate moving the diving platform to another beach.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Scarborough to allow the expansion of the water quality program to Brittingham Beach for 2011. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- D.        [21583](#)        Request of Christine Lamm/Jerry Kempfer of Starting Line Events, LLC. to host "Run to the Rhythm" on July 2, 2011 at Warner Park. (ADs 12 & 18)

A motion was made by Leopold/Chewning to approve the request of Christine Lamm/Jerry Kempfer of Starting Line Events, LLC. to host "Run to the Rhythm" on July 2, 2011 at Warner Park, subject to organizer's compliance with all conditions. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A motion was made by Leopold/Skidmore to take item J out of order. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- [21556](#)        To commemorate the 41st anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, 2011, to proclaim April 23, 2011 as Earth Day Clean-up Day and endorsing and encouraging citizen participation in the clean-up events at City of Madison Parks. (Various ADs)

A motion was made by Leopold/Scarborough to approve Resolution ID#21556 To commemorate the 41st anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, 2011, to proclaim April 23, 2011 as Earth Day Clean-up Day and endorsing and encouraging citizen participation in the clean-up events at City of Madison Parks. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- F. [21244](#) Authorizing the issuance of Requests for Proposals for the Reuse and Rehabilitation of the structures at 640, 646 and 704 East Gorham Street located in James Madison Park. (AD 2)

**This Resolution was RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER**

A motion was made by Clausius/Skidmore to approve Resolution ID#21244 Authorizing the issuance of Requests for Proposals for the Reuse and Rehabilitation of the structures at 640, 646 and 704 East Gorham Street located in James Madison Park. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A motion was made by Clausius/Scarborough to take item H, ID#21491, out of order.  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- [21491](#) **AMENDED CHARTER ORDINANCE** Creating Sec. 10.33 including Charter Ordinance Sec. 10.33(10)(c) and creating new Sec. 8.15(3), renumbering current Secs. 8.15(3) through (5) to (4) through (6), creating Charter Ordinance Sec. 31.045(3)(c), amending Sec. 31.03(2), creating Sec. 31.041(3)(a)6., renumbering current Sec. 31.041(3)(a)6. to 7., amending Sec. 31.044(1)(c) and creating Sec. 31.046(4) of the Madison General Ordinances to allow for the operation of a City-sponsored bicycle-sharing program in Madison and the placement of signs on bicycle sharing facilities.

**Registered Speakers:**

**NAME SUPPORT OPPOSE**

Ald. Judy Compton	Question regarding fee
Ray Harmon	XX

Superintendent Briski stated that the fee referred to in the proposed charter ordinance is not a specific park fee and would not be within the purview of the parks fees schedule or approved by the Park Commission. There is a group of city staff meeting to vet the proposed sites for the kiosks and there may be some that are located on parkland but it is a city fee and not a parks fee. The charter ordinance was referred to the Park Commission because it involves public land and parks are public lands. Mayoral Aide Harmon noted that the charter ordinance is required because there is a state statute that said no advertising is allowed in a right-of-way. The ordinance gives the city home rule authority to create an exception to allow advertising. The Ordinance needs to be approved by the April 15 Council meeting in order for the program to move forward. At this point Skidmore called the question.

A motion was made by Clausius/Skidmore to approve Ordinance ID#21491 Creating Sec. 10.33 including Charter Ordinance Sec. 10.33(10)(c) and creating new Sec. 8.15(3), renumbering current Secs. 8.15(3) through (5) to (4) through (6), creating Charter Ordinance Sec. 31.045(3)(c), amending Sec. 31.03(2), creating Sec. 31.041(3)(a)6., renumbering current Sec. 31.041(3)(a)6. to 7., amending Sec. 31.044(1)(c) and creating Sec. 31.046(4) of the Madison General Ordinances to allow for the operation of a City-sponsored bicycle-sharing program in Madison and the placement of signs on bicycle sharing facilities.  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

G. [21380](#)

Accepting the Madison City Staff authored feasibility study for a rooftop intensive community garden and/or a green roof at the remodeled/renovated Madison Central Public Library.

This Resolution was Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. Due back on 3/21/2011.

Registered Speaker:

NAME SUPPORT OPPOSE

Bryan Cooper, Facilities & Sustainability , Eng Div.

XX

As part of the capital budget appropriation for the remodeled library there was a provision for city staff to complete a feasibility study for a rooftop community garden or green roof. This presentation addressed the potential for a rooftop garden at the new Central Library and described the various types of gardens. They range from an intensive (community garden) roof to an extensive (green) roof. Green roofs keep buildings dry and provide benefits in the form of extending roof life, reducing energy costs, recreating a natural environment for flora and fauna, providing storm water runoff , reducing the urban heat island effect, decreasing noise pollution and filtering airborne pollutants.

An intensive roof provides approximately 12 inches of soil depth to accommodate small trees, shrubs, large plants or vegetable gardens. They are designed to be accessible by the public and those who are taking care of the gardens. I is the most expensive to construct and requires the most long term maintenance.

An intensive green roof is designed for use by the public, and would have to follow all codes, including providing additional security for that area to make sure it is monitored. Neither the city nor the library would operate a rooftop garden. They would need a separate entity to sign a lease for the garden that would include liability and holding the city harmless for any claims associated with the use of the garden. There are not elevators that can currently accommodate gardeners. Additionally the library is not open on Sundays in the summer. A major concern is the estimated additional construction cost for an intensive rooftop of \$775,000 and annual maintenance of \$149,850. At this time City staff are not interested in pursuing this type of rooftop due to costs, access and security.

An extensive green roof has a shallow growth medium of 1 to 6 inches and is typically made up of succulent plants that are drought and wind tolerant and require low maintenance. The estimated additional construction cost for an extensive rooftop is \$156,000 while a traditional roof is \$72,000. Staff determined it is feasible to pursue an extensive green roof as an alternate in the design and bidding process. A diagram showing the portion of the roof being considered for the extensive green roof was presented. The balance of the roof would be topped with a decorative pebble like material.

The study recommended that community gardens be pursued in other downtown parks. Those parks are James Madison, Olin and Brittingham Parks. Title searches were conducted and there are areas in each of these parks that are not restricted and could be used as community garden areas. The study was shared with the downtown community garden group that has



been advocating for space on the rooftop of the library. The garden group would need to follow the process outlined by the Parks Division to request space for gardening.

A motion was made by Leopold/Chewning to accept the feasibility study for a rooftop intensive community garden and/or a green roof at the remodeled/renovated Madison Central Public Library. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

It was also pointed out that space has been allocated in Central Park on the parcel being acquired from MG&E for community garden plots. Barker stated that community gardening is a great public use of parks and is one of the cutting edge uses of parks. The soil will either be amended or raised garden beds will be built because there is a big need for accessible garden plot opportunities.

Barker then addressed the flow sheet for Public Gardens notation "City attorney / Risk Manager recommends a lease agreement similar to community garden leases" which is contrary to our accepted process here. He had a meeting with Ald. Rhodes-Conway and progress has been made on this issue in regard to leases and indemnity. She has been working independently on this issue and working with the City Attorney's office on a Resolution to be brought before the Common Council. Superintendent Briski is not yet aware of all of the particulars. He presented a volunteer model to her for edible landscape. Parks currently has trees and bushes in our system that need care and he suggested that some volunteer relationships be created as a pilot to care for them. Barker continued that on one hand, we've talked about the looming budget issue and the need for more volunteers and philanthropy and on the other hand, we're saying there's a big boulder in the road stopping you from helping us. We have to tell the Risk Manager risk vs. reward, it's an easy calculation.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS ~ None**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Barker/Scarborough the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.