



# City of Madison

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
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## Meeting Minutes - Approved EMERSON EAST-EKEN PARK-YAHARA NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

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Wednesday, October 8, 2014

6:00 PM

James Reeb Unitarian  
Universalist Congregation  
2146 East Johnson Street

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

**Present:** 7 - Arthur M. Hackett; Amy L. Klusmeier; Adrienne Sella; David A. Albino;  
Douglas J. Buege; Aaron E. Onsrud and Daniel S. Grubb

**City Alders and Staff:** Alder Larry Palm, District 12; Linda Horvath and Angela Puerta, City of Madison Planning & Community & Economic Development; Sarah Lerner, City of Madison Parks Division; Michael Miller, City of Madison Community Development Block Grant Division.

### APPROVAL OF August 27, 2014 MINUTES

**A motion was made by Grubb, seconded by Hackett, to Approve the August 27, 2014 Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.**

### PUBLIC COMMENT

John Koch and Peter Rafferty from the Emerson East Neighborhood attended the meeting. There were no public comments.

### DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

#### 1. [32851](#) Plan Development

- Demetral Park
  - Sarah Lerner, Parks Division, presented the Demetral Park Master Plan and took comments from the SC on potential improvements.
  - Demetral Park Public Meeting, October 20th @ 6:00 P.M., Emerson Elementary School, Library Media Center, 2421 E. Johnson St. to explain play equipment improvements that are part of the approved 2015 Park Division budget.
  - Demetral Park is a community park serving the nearby neighborhoods and larger city. The portion north of 6th St. is maintained by the Parks Division and south of 6th St. is maintained by Madison East High School.
- Committee comments
  - Demetral Park is the biggest area of City real estate within the planning area, yet it's not a cornerstone of this area.
  - Add entrance signage to park from bike path off 6th St. and review route through parking lot to the rest of the bike path for potential improvements - maybe way finding signage.
  - Add workout stations, slack-lining, bocce ball court, official astronomy viewing site immediately north of baseball diamond on East High Athletic section of park.

- Shelter is not inviting, ugly and dark. Transform it into a multi-use shelter that attracts a greater diversity of positive events and activities. Parent play-groups currently use it.
  - Enhance Pennsylvania corridor along park with plantings, sculptures, natural prairie, berming, rain garden. Make it low-maintenance as Parks has very limited resources for maintenance - would largely be volunteers.
  - Community gardens could be explored again - there is two feet of clean fill on top of the landfill material and should check with DNR concerning gardens and other digging.
  - Raised garden beds may be more feasible and desirable, next to the dog park perhaps.
  - Rocket composter/bio-digester located next to gardens.
  - Lighting - crime prevention through environmental design guidelines indicate that any lighting should not create shadows where people can hide; perhaps try solar lights that are embedded in the bike path, as in other parts of the City.
  - Lighting needs include the shelter, football field, bike path.
  - Explore connectivity improvements between Demetral Park and Sherman Ave. to make the park more accessible, and then maybe it will be better utilized.
- Emerson Playground
    - 2012 Park Master Plan indicates that the planning area is not deficient in park space.
    - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) policy that CDBG dollars cannot be used for playground improvements in an area that is not park deficient.
    - Mike Miller, City CDBG Office, indicates that the main issue concerning CDBG funds as a potential resource is that this is school district property.
    - Miller recommends using adopted neighborhood plan as a vehicle for raising other funds to improve the playground.
    - CDBG funds dedicated to the neighborhood planning process: \$145,880.
    - CDBG funds should be spent, or contracted to be spent by the end of 2015.
    - Some examples of what was funded through past CDBG neighborhood plans:
      - Emerson East-Eken Park 1998 - pedestrian lights along North and E. Johnson Sts., Eken Park sun shelter, neighborhood welcome signs and information kiosk, bike path connections at Demetral Park and East High.
      - Northport-Warner Park-Sherman 1992 - Warner Park Community and Recreation Center.
      - Northport-Warner Park-Sherman 2009 - FEED Kitchen, branding with artistic images (bus shelters for example).
      - Arbor Hills-Leopold Neighborhood Plan 2013 - Aldo Leopold Park Community Garden and sun shelter, low-interest home loans.
    - Potential for EEPY 2015 CDBG funds - commercial incubator; gateway entrance branding with artistic images; community composter/bio-digester in Burr Jones Park or - associated with the public market; placemaking, community gardens and bio-digester at Demetral Park; affordable housing related projects.
  - Potential redevelopment areas
    - Area 1 - add option for the east corner, Wisconsin Vision building.
    - Area 4 - what is the current density of the existing building? Determine how much parking is needed if keeping this building. Consider architecture on this site that ties it to the lake, sailboat theme, etc. Propose a ped/bike connection to Fordem Ave., determine who owns the land along the Yahara from Area 4 to Fordem Ave., add connection (s) to public market site.
    - Area 5 - need to check feasibility of stormwater management channel with the DNR. Re-orient corner building at Fordem/Sherman to create a flatiron look. Start with option to close Sherman Ave. as Option 1.

2. [32852](#) Next Meeting

- Transportation improvements.
- Planning process update.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Funding for the Emerson East-Eken Park-Yahara Neighborhood Plan project is supported by the City of Madison Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development, Community Development Block Grant and the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.