



# City of Madison

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

## Meeting Minutes - Approved BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

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Wednesday, November 6, 2019

6:30 PM

Warner Park Community Recreation Center  
1625 Northport Dr.

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Madison Board of Park Commissioners was held at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at Warner Park Community Recreation Center. President Leopold called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

**Members Present:** Emily Gnam; Moira Harrington; Madelyn Leopold; and Ald. Paul Skidmore.

**Members Excused:** Ald. Zachary Henak and Venus Washington.

**Parks Staff Present:** Eric Knepp; Kay Rutledge; Lisa Laschinger; Marla Eddy; Josh Schmitt; Roberta Sladky; and Joanne Austin.

**City Staff Present:** Katie Crawley, Mayor's Office; Charlie Romines, Streets Division.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Skidmore, seconded by Gnam, to Approve the Minutes of the October 2, 2019 Board of Park Commissioners meeting. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Registered speaker Nick Christianson spoke regarding the Dog Paddle event at Goodman Pool.

Registered speaker Scott Favour spoke in support of a permanent alcohol ban at Reynolds Park.

### DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

### REPORTS

President of the Park Commission

President Madelyn Leopold reported that the Garver Feed Mill project is a major accomplishment. The Facilities, Programs and Fees Subcommittee held its first meeting on October 28, 2019. The Parks Division and Big Top Sports and Entertainment were presented a Community Asset Award by Downtown Madison Inc.

## Superintendent of Parks

**Superintendent Eric Knepp reported that Emerald Ash Borer mitigation has been very successful and tree removals will be nearly finished by the end of the year. The Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks held its first meeting on October 23, 2019.**

**Olbrich Gardens Executive Director Roberta Sladky presented a general update on Olbrich Gardens, as well as the expansion project.**

**Assistant Superintendent Lisa Laschinger presented an update on Community Services.**

**58041**

November 2019 Superintendent's Report

**Motion made by Harrington, seconded by Skidmore, to Accept the Report. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**

**58045**

Report of the Minutes of the September 25, 2019 Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee and the September 17, 2019 Olbrich Botanical Society.

**Motion made by Gnam, seconded by Skidmore, to Accept the Minutes. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**

**NEW BUSINESS****58042**

Goodman Waves Program Update

**Recreation Services Coordinator Josh Schmitt and Bill Blank, Friends of Goodman Waves, presented an overview of the Goodman Waves program.**

**57892**

Request from University of Wisconsin - Madison American Society of Civil Engineers for the use of Vilas Park on April 3 and 4, 2020 for the setup, event, and take-down for the Great Lakes Student Conference.

**Registered Speakers Alison Pagel and Finley Meyers presented an overview of the request.**

**Motion made by Gnam, seconded by Skidmore, to Approve. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**

**57893**

Request from University of Wisconsin - Madison American Society of Civil Engineers for the use of Vilas Park on June 14 - June 15, 2020 for the setup, event, and take-down for the National Concrete Canoe Competition.

**Registered Speakers Alison Pagel and Finley Meyers presented an overview of the request.**

**Motion made by Skidmore, seconded by Harrington, to Approve. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**

**55206**

SUBSTITUTE - Accepting the final report and recommendations from the Urban Forestry Task Force.

Motion made by Skidmore, seconded by Gnam, to table the item and to move on to Agenda Items 14 and 15. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

Motion made by Skidmore, seconded by Gnam, to take this item off the table. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

City Forester Marla Eddy provided an overview of the Urban Forestry Task Force's work over the previous 2 years.

Registered speaker David Ahrens spoke in support of the report.

Streets Superintendent Charlie Romines spoke about the transition of the Forestry section to the Streets Division.

Knepp answered questions.

Motion made by Gnam, seconded by Skidmore, to recommend to the Council to adopt the Urban Forestry Task Force Report with the Plan Commission's recommended change to the amended resolution, and incorporating the changes recommended by staff as outlined in the "UFTF report Parks staff recommendations for BPC consideration" document, with minor modification as shown below:

Plan Commission – amend resolution to state “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a cross-functional staff team from Parks, Parks-Forestry, City Engineering, Traffic Engineering, and Planning be created to prioritize, 3-5 specific recommendations from the report, with implementation timelines, specific costs and cost-benefit analysis, that will be presented to the Common Council by February, 2020 for consideration in the 2021 budget Capital Improvement Plan (CIP); and,”

Parks staff recommends the following changes to the Urban Forestry Task Force Report:

Page 9, revise bullet to read: “Forestry Section: A section of the Parks Division that is being transferred to the Streets Division as part of the 2020 Operating Budget (this will take effect January 1, 2020). Forestry is responsible...”

Replace Page 11 of the report with the new Page 11 and 11A.

Page 20, Subdivision Recommendations #1 – Add the following sentence: “The City should revise the Madison General Ordinance (possibly MGO 28.142) to include incentives to preserve existing trees of a diameter more than 10 inches DBH (diameter at breast height) as part of private development projects, including single residential lots.”

Page 23, Canopy Coverage, Goals – Add an additional bullet to this section as follows:

Canopy strategies should place a priority on the protection of existing large or very old trees throughout the City. Special heritage protection should be

considered for large burr oaks wherever they occur, in recognition of their place in pre-settlement oak savannas.

Page 24, Recommendation #6 – Revise as follows: “Dedicate additional resources to Forestry for more frequent pruning and maintenance of new and existing street trees. The current approximately 21 -year pruning cycle of street trees should be evaluated in order identify methods and resources needed to shorten the cycle. Resources should also be dedicated to replanting more promptly.”

Page 24, Recommendation #7 – Revise as follows: “The Park Commission should prepare a policy of and develop methods for canopy growth within parks with the goal of by planting 2,000 more trees above the replacement rate each year for the next five years, taking into account existing park policies (park master planning and land management, etc.), park values (sight lines, viewsheds, no-mow prairie areas, etc.) and other park uses (active recreation as well as passive recreation opportunities) to create a diverse and balanced park system as identified in the Park and Open Space Plan, and how it could interact with other park uses (e.g., no-mow areas). An assessment for park properties should be completed in order to identify preliminary tree locations, set consistent design goals, and project both priority areas and rates for tree planting. In addition, a tree preservation plan or criteria should be developed for Parks.”

Page 25, Recommendation #15 – Revise as follows: “The Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee is a subcommittee of the Board of Park Commissioners; with the transfer of the Forestry Section to the Streets Division effective 2020, several modifications to the ordinance will be required as the Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee will still have purview over land management, including trees, on park lands though they may no longer have the same purview over trees in the ROW. The Common Council should consider developing an urban forest board with regular meetings or revise the responsibilities of the existing Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee to include this work, in order to advise on the recommendations made by the Urban Forestry Task Force and to address future urban forestry needs, with the understanding that the Board of Park Commissioners, and the Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee, has purview over land management, including trees, for public park lands.”

Motion passed by voice vote/other.

[57941](#)

2020 Proposed Parks Division Fees

Laschinger presented an overview of the proposed 2020 Parks Division fees.

Motion made by Skidmore, seconded by Harrington, to Approve. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

[57944](#)

2020 Proposed Forest Hill Cemetery Fees

Laschinger presented an overview of the proposed 2020 Forest Hill Cemetery fees.

Motion made by Harrington, seconded by Gnam, to Approve. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Gnam, seconded by Harrington, to Adjourn at 8:25 PM. Motion passed by voice vote/other.