



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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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, January 8, 2025

6:30 PM

330 E. Lakeside St.

1 CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was held at 6:30 PM at the Parks Division's Lakeside Offices on Wednesday, January 8, 2025. President Harrington called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Members Present: Moira Harrington; Catie McDonald; Chandra Miller Fienen; Michelle Probst; and Ben Williams.

Members Excused: Common Council President Ald. Yanette Figueroa Cole and Ald. Jael Currie.

Alders Present: Amani Latimer Burris and Charles Myadze.

Parks Staff Present: Eric Knepp; Lisa Laschinger; CJ Ryan; Joanne Austin; Kelly Post; and Tanya Zastrow.

City Staff Present: Katie Crawley, Mayor's Office; Charlie Romines, Streets; and Isaac Matthias, Common Council Office.

2 [86506](#)

Approval of the Minutes of the December 11, 2024 Board of Park Commissioners meeting.

Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Miller Fienen, to Approve the Minutes of the December 11, 2024 Board of Park Commissioners meeting. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

3 [86513](#)

Public Comment

Registered speaker Paul Noeldner from Madison FUN (Friends of Urban Nature) Partnership spoke about FUN and provided a handout.

Registered speaker Marie Jacobson from Wild Warner spoke about the receipt of a \$50,000 donation that will be used to support the work of Wild Warner, including eagle protection efforts and a scholarship fund.

4 DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

- 5 [85048](#) Election of the Board of Park Commissioners President (All Districts)
- McDonald recognized Harrington for her leadership and service as the Board of Park Commissioners president.
- Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Williams, to nominate Chandra Miller Fienen as the next Board of Park Commissioners president. Motion passed by voice vote/other.
- 6 [85049](#) Election of the Board of Park Commissioners Vice President (All Districts)
- Motion made by Williams, seconded by Probst, to nominate Catie McDonald as the Board of Park Commissioners Vice President. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

REPORTS

- 7 **President of the Park Commission**
- Miller Fienen recognized Moira Harrington for her leadership and expressed gratitude towards staff for their continued support of the Board of Park Commissioners along with their leadership and ability to respond to the many changes within the parks system.
- 8 **Superintendent of Parks**
- Superintendent Eric Knepp provided the Superintendent Report. Skating rinks are open for the season and have already been open longer than the previous season. Madison LakeWay will have a public information meeting regarding Sasaki's schematic designs on Thursday, January 23rd. Parks will be kicking off the 2026 capital budget process later this week, and the paid parking pilot may return in the near future. Staff is not currently dedicating time to this and will update the Commission as information is available. Knepp recognized Harrington for her service as president of the Park Commission and shared that he is excited to work with Miller Fienen to continue to serve Madison residents.
- 9 [86508](#) January 2025 Superintendent's Report
- Olbrich Botanical Gardens Director Tanya Zastro presented the Olbrich Botanical Gardens report and was available to answer questions.
- Motion made by Williams, seconded by Probst, to Accept the Report. Motion passed by voice vote/other.
- 10 [86514](#) Report of the Minutes of the December 10, 2024 Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee and October 22, 2024 Olbrich Botanical Society.
- Motion made by Harrington, seconded by Williams, to Accept the Minutes. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

11 NEW BUSINESS

- 12** [86574](#) Informational Update on the City's Board, Committee, and Commission Streamlining Project (All Districts)
- Knepp provided the update and was available to answer questions.**
- 13** [86538](#) Request by Nancy Ann Little to extend Madison Park hours for a wedding, allowing guests to remain and amplified sound until 11 PM and clean up until 12 AM, on Sunday, May 25, 2025 at Olin Park Pavilion. The amplified sound will be inside the Olin Pavilion.
- Park and Street Use Supervisor Kelly Post explained that this is a unique request so needs to be approved by the Park Commission, per Ordinance.**
- Registered speaker Ammar Alsamawi spoke in support and was available to answer questions.**
- Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Probst, to Approve the request.**
Motion passed by voice vote/other.
- 14** [86531](#) Informational Report by Madison Mallards Regarding the Community Impact Report, Neighborhood Impact Plan, and Responsible Alcohol Consumption Action Plan at Warner Park (District 12)
- Registered speaker Vern Stenman from Madison Mallards, spoke in support, provided an overview of Mallards 2024 season and plans for 2025, and was available to answer questions.**
Registered speaker Beth Sluys spoke neither in support nor opposition.
- 15** [86530](#) Approving Request by Madison Mallards for Fireworks Displays and Other Promotions for the 2025 Mallards and Night Mares Season at Warner Park Stadium (District 12)
- Alder Latimer Burris spoke neither in support nor opposition, but requested that the Mallards and staff continue to work with the community to develop a solution.**
Registered speaker Marie Jacobson spoke in opposition.
Registered speaker Kathlean Wolf spoke in opposition.
Registered speaker Michael Rewey spoke in opposition.
Registered speaker Beth Sluys spoke in opposition.
Registered speaker David Bierman spoke in opposition.
Registered speaker Marie Cannon spoke in opposition.
Registered speaker Taylor Franklin spoke in opposition and was available to answer questions.
Registrant Dayanara Molina was in opposition.
Registered speaker Vern Stenman spoke in support and clarified there will be a drones-only show that is not part of this request, as only fireworks must be approved by the Board of Park Commissioners, and answered questions.
Alder Charles Myadze spoke regarding the matter of fireworks and community engagement.

Williams indicated he would not support the fireworks request based on the negative impacts to the environment and wildlife. McDonald and Miller Fienen requested that the Mallards prepare a long-term plan for future consideration that demonstrates a plan to reduce fireworks shows over time.

Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Harrington to Approve the Plan for the 2025 season for no more than 6 fireworks shows with no shows starting after 10PM, a minimum of 3 shows must be low decible, a minimum of 2 shows following Night Mares games, with the understanding that the shows must be planned and executed consistent with the conditions, timing and actions taken in 2024 to prevent impacts to eagle nesting, which were as follows: following volunteer observation and confirmation from Park Rangers that the eaglets have fully fledged prior to any show. Whether or not the eaglets have fully fledged will determine if the fireworks display can take place or needs to be moved to a later date.

Motion passed by the following vote:

Approve (4): Harrington, McDonald, Miller Fienen, and Probst

Oppose (1): Williams

- 16 [86529](#) Approving request for annual disbursement of funds from Olin Trust for park beautification projects

Assistant Superintendent CJ Ryan provided a brief overview of the beautification report. Knepp and Laschinger commented regarding the impact of the beautification plan and ongoing funding resources.

Motion made by Probst, seconded by Williams, to Approve the Request.

Motion passed by voice vote/other.

- 17 [86500](#) Informational Presentation of the 2024 Year-End Review of the Madison Parks Foundation Annual Initiatives

Ty Beck from Madison Parks Foundation provided overview of the annual report. Stephanie Franklin was available to answer questions.

- 18 [86507](#) Informational Presentation by Parks Division staff regarding 2025-2030 Park & Open Space Plan update.

Laschinger provided informational overview and status update of the Park & Open Space Plan process.

- 19 [86374](#) Annual Statement of Interest Due

Commissioners were reminded to turn in their Statement of Interest forms if they had not done so already.

- 20 **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Williams, seconded by Harrington, to Adjourn at 9:21 PM.

Motion passed by voice vote/other.