



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, November 6, 2024

6:30 PM

VIRTUAL

1 CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was held virtually at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, November 6, 2024. President Harrington called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

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

Members Absent: Ald. Charles Myadze.

Members Excused: Ald. Yanette Figueroa Cole and Catie McDonald.

Alders Present: Amani Latimer Burris and Bill Tishler

Parks Staff Present: Eric Knepp; Lisa Laschinger; CJ Ryan; Dave Vetovec; Ann Shea; Chad Hughes; and Nicole Miller.

City Staff Present: Katie Crawley, Mayor's Office; Janet Schmidt, Engineering; and Renee Callaway, Traffic Engineering.

2 [85708](#)

Approval of the Minutes of the October 9, 2024 Board of Park Commissioners Meeting.

Motion made by Probst, seconded by Miller Fienen, to Approve the Minutes of the October 9, 2024 Board of Park Commissioners meeting. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

3 [85712](#)

Public Comment

Public speaker Alex Saloutos spoke regarding requirements related to legislative files.

4 DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

REPORTS

5 President of the Park Commission

President Harrington yielded her time to Ben Williams. Williams provided updates on Madison Parks Foundation plans for corporate partnership, which was taken to Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee for feedback. Williams announced that tickets are now on sale for 2025 Picnic in the Park, and discussed several other recent fundraising efforts, including with Forward Madison and at Yahara Hills Golf Course.

6 Superintendent of Parks

Figueroa Cole arrived at 6:40 PM

Members Present: 5 – Ald. Yanette Figueroa Cole; Moira Harrington; Chandra Miller Fienen; Michelle Probst; and Ben Williams.

Members Excused: 1 - Catie McDonald.

Members Absent: 1 - Ald. Charles Myadze.

Superintendent Eric Knepp reported elections held in parks went smoothly. The funding referendum passed and budget process will continue next week.

7 [85867](#) November 2024 Superintendent's Report

Public Information Officer Ann Shea gave the Public Information Office report and answered questions.

Golf Director Dave Vetovec gave the Golf report and answered questions.

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

8 [85866](#) Report of the Minutes of the October 7, 2024 Facilities, Programs and Fees Subcommittee; the October 16, 2024 Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee; and the August 20, 2024 Olbrich Botanical Society.

Motion made by Williams, seconded by Probst, to Accept the Minutes. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

9 NEW BUSINESS**10 [85727](#) Approving request from Big Top Events for additional concerts at Breese Stevens Field in 2025 (District 6)**

Assistant Superintendent CJ Ryan presented the request and answered questions. Request to increase concerts must have Park Commission approval and notice given to Tenney-Lapham Neighborhood Association and District Alder.

Registered speaker Alex Saloutos spoke neither in support nor opposition regarding Big Top Events contract.

Registered speaker Conor Caloia of Big Top Events was available to answer questions.

Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Miller Fienen, to allow Big Top to host up to 5 additional concerts in 2025, for a total of 12. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

- 11 [85775](#) Informational Report Debriefing the Fireworks Shows at the Madison Mallards 2024 Season (District 12, District 18)

Vern Stenman of Madison Mallards spoke in support and provided report of 2024 fireworks season.

Alder Amani Latimer Burris and Alder Tishler were available to answer questions.

Registered speaker Beth Sluys spoke in opposition.

Registered speaker Marsha Cannon spoke neither in support nor opposition urging that people be prioritized over profit.

Registered speaker Alex Saloutos spoke in opposition.

Registered speaker Samantha Rubin of Madison Mallards was in support and was available to answer questions.

Registrant Jen Drabsch was in opposition.

Registrant Patricia Lowry was in opposition.

Registrant Maggie Honig was in opposition.

Registrant D A Kester neither supports nor opposes.

Registrant Douglas Norgord was in opposition.

Registrant David Bierman was in opposition.

Ryan gave presentation and answered questions.

Park Commission would like to work with LRP to be proactive about this issue as it comes up every year. Alder Latimer Burris agrees.

- 12 [85811](#) Authorizing the use of up to \$123,000 of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and authorizing the Community Development Division to enter into agreements with the Parks and Traffic Engineering Divisions in order to implement neighborhood improvement projects identified in the South Madison Neighborhood Plan (District 14).

Assistant Superintendent Lisa Laschinger gave overview and was available to answer questions. Funds would be used to put solar lights by Penn Park shelter for better access and install lights along path in Quann Park for increased park access.

Renee Callaway of Traffic Engineering was available to answer questions.

Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Probst, to RETURN TO LEAD WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Motion passed by voice vote/other.

- 13 [85812](#) Authorizing the use of up to \$250,000 of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and authorizing the Community Development Division to enter into agreements with the Madison Metropolitan School District and the Planning, Parks and Traffic Engineering Divisions to implement neighborhood improvement projects identified in the Hawthorne-Truax Neighborhood plan. (District 12)
- Laschinger gave an overview and was available to answer questions. Funds would be used as part of an approved plan for improving recreational biking in Carpenter-Ridgeway Park.**
- Renee Callaway of Traffic Engineering was available to answer questions.**
- Motion made by Probst, seconded by Figueroa Cole, to RETURN TO LEAD WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.**
- Motion passed by voice vote/other.**
- 14 [85911](#) Accepting Amended Final Report of the Spring Habor Watershed Study. (Districts 1, District 9, District 11, and District 19)
- Janet Schmidt of Engineering provided overview of the plan, potential impacts to parks within the watershed area, and answered questions.**
- Motion made by Probst, seconded by Miller Fienen, to Approve. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**
- 15 [85865](#) Informational presentation on Parks efforts to manage toys intentionally left in parks.
- Parks Operations Manager Chad Hughes presented a history of the issue, pilot volunteer program, and answered questions.**
- 16 **ADJOURNMENT**
- Motion made by Williams, seconded by Figueroa Cole, to Adjourn at 9:29 PM.**
- Motion passed by voice vote/other.**