



# City of Madison

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

## 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?*

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Wednesday, December 11, 2024

6:30 PM

VIRTUAL

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### 1 CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was held virtually at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, December 11, 2024. President Harrington called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Members Present: Common Council President Ald. Yanette Figueroa Cole; Ald. Jael Currie; Moira Harrington; Catie McDonald; Chandra Miller Fienen; and Ben Williams.

Members Excused: Michelle Probst.

Parks Staff Present: Eric Knepp; Lisa Laschinger; CJ Ryan; Joanne Austin; and Tracey Hartley.

City Staff Present: Katie Crawley, Mayor's Office.

### 2 [86193](#)

Approval of the Minutes of the November 6, 2024 Board of Park Commissioners meeting.

Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by McDonald, to Approve the Minutes of the November 6, 2024 Board of Park Commissioners meeting.

Motion passed by voice vote/other with Currie abstaining.

### 3 [86192](#)

Public Comment

There were no registrants for Public Comment.

### 4 DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

Miller Fienen recused herself from Agenda Item #13 (Leg. File #86305) because Madison Boats/Marshall Boats LLC is owned by a family member.

**REPORTS****5 President of the Park Commission**

President Harrington recognized resident members who serve on the Board of Park Commissioners subcommittees including Stephen Glass on the Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee. She recognized the entire Commission for the work accomplished in 2024, including 26 hours on Commission meetings, and rewarding and civil discussions on topics such as fireworks, futsal, and the fees. Areas that stood out to Harrington were approvals of contractual relationships with partners (Madison NightMares, Rooted, Madison Mallards, and Big Top Events), approving the Area Plans and is looking forward to 2025. Common Council President Alder Figueroa Cole recognized Harrington for coordinating the staff ride-alongs and recognizing it for a future training/onboarding opportunity.

- 6**      [86257](#)      Approving Park Commission President Resident Appointment to the Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee of the Board of Park Commissioners
- Motion made by Miller Fienen, seconded by Williams, to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULE 2.055**. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

**7 Superintendent of Parks**

Superintendent Eric Knepp provided overview of the Superintendent's Report. He intends to have more discussion regarding the budget and is interested in engaging earlier in 2026 with the Commission. Pay to Park in Parks Pilot program is currently included in the budget. There was a movement to rescind this, but it failed at the Common Council meeting on December 10, 2024 with a 14-1 vote. Knepp discussed potential future considerations for the paid parking pilot and additional study. Expressed gratitude to staff for the work they have done throughout the year and progress made on the 2024 Work Plan.

- 8**      [86194](#)      December 2024 Superintendent's Report
- Assistant Superintendent Lisa Laschinger provided the Planning & Development report and was available to answer questions.
- Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Miller Fienen, to **Accept the Report**. Motion passed by voice vote/other.
- 9**      [86195](#)      Report of the Minutes of the November 20, 2024 Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee meeting.
- Motion made by Miller Fienen, seconded by Figueroa Cole, to **Accept the Minutes**. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

**10 NEW BUSINESS**

- 11     [86382](#)     Approving Request from University of Wisconsin to allow the Urban Canid Project to continue for the eleventh year in Madison Parks.
- Dr. David Drake from the UW provided overview of 2024 research and requested permission to continue into the eleventh year. Dr. Drake requested a future agenda item for debriefing of Olbrich North & Hartmayer Roth and offered to continue submitting an annual report.**
- Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Miller Fienen, to Approve the Urban Canid Project for 3 years with one presentation before the end of the third year. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**
- 12     [86318](#)     Informational Presentation of the 2024 Summary Report on the Biergarten at Olbrich Park
- Erik Kesting from BKM provided the annual report of operations at the Biergarten in Olbrich Park and was available to answer questions.**
- 13     [86305](#)     Authorizing the City to execute an agreement with Marshall Boats LLC to conduct boat rental and instruction, concessions, and other recreational activities at Marshall Park from the years of 2025-2039. (District 19)
- Tyler Leeper from Marshall Boats provided a presentation of past operations and upcoming plans related to the agreement and was available to answer questions.**
- Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by McDonald, to RETURN TO LEAD WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE. Motion passed by voice vote/other with Miller Fienen recusing herself because Marshall Boats is owned by a family member.**
- 14     [86271](#)     Authorizing the Parks Superintendent to Enter into Boat Launch Use Agreements with Construction Companies to Use Designated Boat Launches for Private Purposes (Citywide)
- Assistant Superintendent CJ Ryan provided an overview of the agreement and was available to answer questions.**
- Motion made by Figueroa Cole, seconded by Williams, to RETURN TO LEAD WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE. Motion passed by voice vote/other.**
- 15     [86371](#)     Informational Presentation of the Parks Winter Recreation Plan for 2024-2025 Season
- Recreation Services Coordinator Tracey Hartley provided an informational presentation of 2025 Winter programming plans and was available to answer questions.**

- 16      [86319](#)      Informational Presentation of The Parks Division's 2025 Adopted Capital and Operating Budgets

**Laschinger provided an overview of the 2025 Adopted Capital and Operating Budgets and was available to answer questions.**

- 17      [86374](#)      Annual Statement of Interest Due

**Commissioners were reminded to submit their Statement of Interest forms.**

- 18      **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion made by McDonald, seconded by Figueroa Cole, to Adjourn at 8:20 PM.  
Motion passed by voice vote/other.**