



# City of Madison

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

## Meeting Minutes - Approved WARNER PARK COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

---

Thursday, May 22, 2008

7:15 PM

1625 Northport Dr. (WPCRC)

---

### I CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 pm by Chair, JoAnn Walker.

**Present:** 7 -

Emy Imhoff; Paul J. Van Rooy; JoAnn Walker; Satya V. Rhodes Conway;  
Michael Schumacher; Soncerethia Clair-Thomas and Susan J. Ihler

**Absent:** 1 -

David L. Wallner

**Excused:** 1 -

David E. Carpenter

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Schumacher, seconded by Rhodes Conway, to Approve as Amended, the Minutes of the regular meeting of March 27, 2008. The motion passed by voice vote.

[http://legistar.cityofmadison.com/meetings/2008/3/6555\\_M\\_WARNER\\_PARK\\_COMMUNITY\\_RECREATION\\_CENTER\\_ADVISORY\\_COMMITTEE\\_08-03-27\\_Meeting\\_Minutes.pdf](http://legistar.cityofmadison.com/meetings/2008/3/6555_M_WARNER_PARK_COMMUNITY_RECREATION_CENTER_ADVISORY_COMMITTEE_08-03-27_Meeting_Minutes.pdf)

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No registrations.

### IV. REPORTS

#### CHAIR REPORT

#### COF – Golf Outing

The 3rd Annual Golf Outing fundraiser for the Warner Park Pool will be held on June 4 at Bridges Golf Course. There is still time to sign up and registration is \$100 per golfer.

#### Holiday Craft Show

The craft show is the first Saturday in December, 12/06/08. The show is only 20% full at this time. Since the Center did not have a Spring Show, crafters did not have the opportunity to sign up for the holiday show in April as they usually do. Letters have been sent out to previous crafters inviting them to apply now for the December show in order to guarantee their first choice for booth location. After that date, applications will be available for anyone interested in being in the show. Plans are to have guest pianists in the lobby playing seasonal music and food concessions in the community room. Paul and Gloria Van Rooy have generously volunteered to coordinate the concessions.

#### 10 Year Anniversary Committee

Susan Ihler will chair the committee. Citizens who volunteered to help plan the celebration include Terry Tiedt, Janet Epps, Dick and Mona Fuszard, Pat Steele and Susan Hill. Tim Carlisle, Lead Organizer for the NPC, offered to check with the Northside Planning Council for persons who may be interested in helping plan the event.

#### 4. Presentation

JoAnn Walker presented Brad Weisinger with a recognition plaque from the WPCRC Advisory Committee for his 9 years of service as the First Director of the WPCRC. Walker said the WPCRC is a lively center, bustling with people. She stated that Weisinger, as the Center's leader, was like a strong beat underlying the melody in a piece of music. The plaque recognized Weisinger for his strength, spirit and achievements in making the WPCRC a success.

Weisinger thanked the WPCRC Advisory Committee and others who had contributed to the success of the Center. These included Janet Dyer (MSCR Supervisor) and Diane Dabbert (WPCRC Program Assistant). Weisinger noted that both Dyer and Dabbert had been with the Center from its beginning nine years ago and were also part of the Center's strength.

The plaque will be hung in a place of honor at the Center.

[10547](#)

MARCH 2008 WPCRC & NESCO

The report was accepted.

[10548](#)

MARCH 2008 MSCR

The report was accepted.

[10549](#)

APRIL 2008 WPCRC & NESCO

Paul Van Rooy made additions to the NESCO report. The Monday summer concerts will begin on June 16. At its annual meeting, the NESCO Board of Directors re-elected board members Sandy Tordoff, Paulette Siebers, Toby Sherry and Jan Somerfeld. Newly elected Board members are Michael Basford

and Cindy Schmelzer. NESCO has recently had some staff turnover including the Nutrition Site Manager and new case managers. Upcoming senior programming includes information sessions with Billy Feitlinger on May 27 and State Senator Jon Erpenbach on June 17. Other new senior programs have been planned. WPCRC, MSCR and NESCO met together to ensure programming would not conflict with any MSCR programs at the Center.

The report was accepted.

[10550](#)

APRIL 2008 MSCR

The report was accepted.

## V. WPCRC HISTORY REPORT

[10551](#)

WPCRC History Report

### Discussion:

Weisinger explained that Alder Michael Schumacher requested a report be submitted to the Park Commission regarding the historic perspective on the relationships at WPCRC including their development and how they were formed. The Park Commission referred the report to the WPCRC Advisory Committee at their May meeting. Schumacher said there was no specific recommendation but only a referral for informational purposes. Weisinger prepared the report.

There was general discussion about other cities and how they organized their Parks and Recreation departments, whether they were a combined city entity or separate agencies. In Madison, the City operates and maintains parks and the School District operates recreational programs. Large neighborhood centers throughout the country are drop-in type centers but contract out for the operation of recreational programs. Rentals are usually managed by the operating entity in charge such as City or County.

It was noted that Michigan and Wisconsin are the only 2 states that have recreational programming as part of the school system. All other states have recreation as part of the city or county operations. Dyer stated that MSCR is 84 years old and the first school system recreational programming was done in Milwaukee.

Weisinger said that other centers might contract out for recreational programming but the city or county in charge of the facility regulates the programs. Dyer added that the City and the Recreation Department are different organizations but they rely on each other for various things. An example would be the ball fields for recreational teams and leagues.

The book "Let's Play" written by Bob Humke was mentioned as a good historical reference for recreational programs. Humke was a former director of MSCR.

Dyer stated that MSCR is actually losing money in WPCRC programming. She stated that there is \$90,000 in program revenue but the cost of programming is about \$300,000. She also said that MSCR is funded by donations and grants. MSCR losses are passed on to the taxpayers on property tax bills.

Carlisle said funding questions are a part of the history of the Center's start. The decision was made to take advantage of what were already in the community and this included MSCR recreational programs. NESCO contributed to the construction of the Center and thus the Center would serve all ages of seniors in the building. It was to be a "center for everybody." Financial incentives and existing city resources were also made use of. CDBG had resources and in order to get the Center built, Carlisle said there had to be compliance with CDBG regulations to include a certain percentage of low income people. (51% of the Center's users must be below the 80% HUD income range). This requirement will expire in September 2009.

Weisinger noted that state revenue sharing impacts the City budget. The Center has been fortunate in its interactions with the Mayor's Office and the Mayor has not cut Center funding.

Weisinger, Walker and Van Rooy are having open discussion on the lease vs contract issue regarding the NESCO lease and MSCR contract. It is a difficult subject but the question needs to be asked as to why the City pays MSCR. Schumacher said the Park Commission may deal with this issue again in the summer. He commented that it is hard to understand why one agency pays a lease fee to the City and the other agency has a contract and is paid by the City.

Weisinger said that costs initially paid by the City had been discussed by staff. As budgets tightened, Weisinger was able to make changes and adjustments to the contract and reduce the costs to the City. Weisinger stated that he did not want contentious relations created amongst the directors of MSCR, NESCO and WPCRC as a result of the contract/lease issue. The relationships now are harmonious because staff worked through their differences over the years.

Satya Rhodes Conway said she was in favor of a joint discussion between the Park Commission and the Advisory Committee. Schumacher noted that more than one meeting would be needed as the Park Commission needed to gain clarity about the situation. The MSCR contract had already been approved for 2008 but discussion will take place before next year's contract is approved.

Schumacher stated that the Park Commission had put an 8-month hold on discussion of WPCRC expansion. Weisinger noted that Parks staff has put the issue on its long range planning agenda.

The report was accepted.

## **VI. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION**

**Attachments included a letter of thanks from the Aquinas boys' high school basketball team. The team practiced in the WPCRC gym for the State Tournament and went on to win the championship.**

**Another letter was from a customer who appreciated the friendliness and helpfulness of WPCRC staff.**

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Van Rooy, seconded by Schumacher, to Adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.**