



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

6:30 PM 1625 Northport Dr. # (Warner Park Community Recreation Center)

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Madison Board of Park Commissioners was held on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 at Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Drive. President Barker called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Present: 7 -

Joseph R. Clausius; Paul E. Skidmore; William W. Barker; David L. Wallner; Betty Chewning; Emanuel Scarbrough and Janet Parker

Parks staff present: Steve Doniger, Kay Rutledge, Jim Weinstock, LaVonne LaFave

City Staff present: Linda Horvath, Archie Nicolette, David Kress of Planning and Development

Alders present: Satya Rhodes-Conway, Michael Verveer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Parker/Clausius to approve the Minutes of the July 8, 2009 and August 12, 2009 regular meetings of the Park Commission. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public who wished to comment on items not on the Agenda.

IV. REPORTS

Olbrich Botanical Society Minutes of June 16 and July 21, 2009

1. Recognition Policy adopted by OBS on July 21, 2009
2. Sponsorship Policy adopted by OBS on July 21, 2009

A motion was made by Skidmore/Wallner to accept the Minutes of the June 16, 2009 and July 21, 2009 meetings of the Olbrich Botanical Society. MOTION CARRIED unanimously. A motion was made by Skidmore/Scarbrough to approve the Recognition and Sponsorship Policies adopted by the Olbrich

Botanical Society on July 21, 2009. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Warner Park Community Recreation Center Minutes of May 28, 2009

A motion was made by Clausius/Wallner to accept the Minutes of the May 28, 2009 meeting of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

President of the Park Commission

President Barker noted he serves as Chair of the Central Park Design and Implementation Task Force. This committee has almost completed their charge. They are currently formulating their report and working on the Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Center for Resilient Cities. The Mayor has indicated he may make some funding available to match the federal procurement.

He noted that the article that recently appeared in the Capital Times was not very accurate. There was a very spirited discussion on the two major directions the Park could take and the reporter's interpretation on that discussion was not quite accurate. The editor then weighed in on approving the original \$45 million design for the entire 28-acre park that is completely unrealistic since all of the land has not been acquired. The Committee is working with approximately 4 acres in a very fluid changing environment.

He also reported he worked at the membership table at Olbrich Botanical Gardens five times during the Blooming Butterfly exhibit and saw lots of families and little kids. He was pleased to see so many people from out of state that came specifically for the butterfly exhibit. He is amazed by Olbrich's gardens, exhibits and facilities and he recognizes it is due in large part to all of their volunteers and the philanthropic activities of the Botanical Society.

Superintendent of Parks

1. Written Report of Supervisor's Activities

Steve Doniger, Community Services Manager, reported that Superintendent Briski is attending a family funeral out of state.

Written Report of Supervisors' Activities

Clarification was made that the Starkweather pedestrian bridge is located near Shopko across Aberg near Eken Park and connects right along the Creek. A motion was made by Skidmore/Wallner to approve the written report. MOTION CARRIED unanimousl

Informational Items

Doniger then reported on highlights for the month. Ride the Drive was very

successful. He thanked not only Parks staff and in particular, Kelli Lamberty; but also staff from other city agencies as well as the many volunteers who made this a successful event. It is anticipated it will become an annual signature event for the Parks Division.

The National SSBL/2009 ASANA National Woman's Softball World Series was held from September 2 thru 5 at Elver and Olbrich Parks. It was a fantastic tournament with over 40 teams.

Warner Park Community Recreation Center is celebrating 10 years of existence with events beginning September 13 and ending September 19.

The Parks Division is pleased to introduce a new fall event, Hayrides in the Park. They will be held Thursdays through Sundays at various times in Elver, Olin and Warner Parks. The ride will include a campfire and S' mores. The price is \$75.00 for a group of up to 24 people.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens Blooming Butterflies wrapped up another fantastic year with more than 27,000 visitors.

Finally, he thanked the Park Commissioners and Parks staff for the turnout for the rededication of Sauk Heights Playground. In the space of approximately six weeks from the vandalism/arson the playground was cleaned up, equipment ordered and installed.

Chewning asked about the status of the Ice Age Trail discussion that occurred several months ago relative to the Shady Wood Neighborhood Plan. She had anticipated that it would be brought back to the Park Commission. LaFave reported that Phase A of the Neighborhood Plan was adopted by the Common Council, it was not recommended to come back. [Note: The Ice Age Trail portion is not located in Phase A of the Plan which was approved, but is land that is not within the City of Madison boundaries.] Chewning requested that Parks staff speak directly with the Planning Department on this issue.

Wallner congratulated Doniger and Parks for the Ride the Drive event. There were a huge number of people who came and it was an amazing event for kids and families.

Wallner questioned when the issue of protecting street trees in construction zones will be discussed by the Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee. It will be on their agenda for their November 17 meeting.

LaFave reported that the Common Council has adopted an ordinance amending names of Committees, Codifying Creation of Committees, Deleting Obsolete Committees and Renumbering Sections of Chapters 3 and 33 in accordance with the Report of the CCOC Subcommittee on Committee Creation and Committee Rules. The purpose was to clarify the names of all boards, committees and commissions, etc. under the purview of the Common Council and to identify rules of procedure so they all followed the same process. It provides a baseline but committees can adopt different procedures if they want. The Park Commission Policies will be reviewed to determine compliance and any changes will be introduced at the November Park Commission meeting.

The November meeting date was changed to Wednesday, November 18, 2009.

The September edition of the Parks newsletter was distributed this evening and also sent out electronically to our partners, friends and neighborhood groups.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. [15282](#) Adopting the Northport-Warner Park-Sherman Neighborhood Plan as a supplement to the City of Madison Comprehensive Plan.

Linda Horvath of the Planning Division of the Department of Planning and Community and Economic Development introduced the Northport-Warner Park-Sherman Neighborhood Plan. Alders Satya Rhodes-Conway and Michael Schumacher have also been involved in this plan. The goals are to introduce the planning process, highlight the recommendations that pertain to parks, and request that the Park Commission approve a motion to the Plan Commission to adopt the plan. This Plan has been presented to eight city committees with the expectation that the Plan be adopted by the Common Council in October.

The Steering Committee of 23 neighborhood representatives from the 12 neighborhoods and the business community began its formal work in early 2008. This Plan is an update to the 1992 and 1996 plans. All three plans have received some CDBG assistance to complete them. The Planning Division staff are the facilitators and the committee makes the recommendations. There have been 4 open house events as well as numerous meetings with neighborhood associations, the Northside Planning Council and business association involvement. There were also one-on-one interviews with various stakeholders such as schools and community center representatives.

Implementation of the recommendations comes through the city budget process as well as approximately \$100,000 of CDBG funding. The committee identified the priorities for spending these funds. The priorities have also been highlighted in the August-September issue of the Northside News.

Archie Nicolette of the Planning Division then spoke about the neighborhood. The Warner Park neighborhood is a working class neighborhood that blossomed after WWII and Oscar Mayer was one of the driving forces in its development. There is a long history of lots of social and ethnic diversity that are among its strengths. The other unique aspect of the neighborhood is it is well defined and confined within the borders of Lake Mendota, Cherokee Marsh and the Airport. Almost 50% of the people live in multi-family dwellings along the major corridors and then the neighborhood changes to single-family dwellings. There are also a great number of natural resources in the neighborhood from the Lake to Warner Park to Cherokee Marsh. There are 4 small elementary schools that are also a strength for the neighborhood. There are also five community centers.

David Kress of the Planning Division noted that another major area of emphasis in this planning process was discussing potential concepts and ideas for redevelopment in the next 5- to 15-years. Major goals emerging from those discussions included green and/or sustainable development. There was

also a focus on creating open spaces either in the form of parks or private plazas to be used as open gathering spaces. Another emphasis was on connectivity between the natural assets in the area.

Several errors in the planning document were then identified and corrected. Page 49 identifies the soccer field along Monterey Drive. This language was to be removed from the plan but had been missed on this page. Also on page 49 there was a reference to clearing select trees and brush off Monterey Drive. Brush and trees are regularly pruned by Forestry staff. This reference is to be deleted. On page 39 staff was not suggesting that "pontoon" boats be allowed on the lagoon but that canoes, paddle boats and possibly kayaks could be used in the lagoon.

Jolena Presti represented the Steering Committee. Members felt strongly about the importance of the natural environment on the Northside, not just Warner Park, but also the small neighborhood parks. They feel a great deal of ownership and want to strengthen the parks. Parks staff also attended their meetings to provide input and structure to the recommendations regarding Warner Park. The main recommendation was that the Warner Park Master Plan needs revision. Within the plan are ideas that could be implemented either independently or as part of the revised Master Plan. A more visible, attractive entrance to Warner Park from Sherman and Northport, such as a boulevard into the park, was mentioned to make it more exciting. It was interjected that an archway into Warner Park is in process that would be funded via CDBG monies. Another suggestion was to have more green, sustainability features incorporated into the parking lots. Pedestrian safety is a major theme and there are no clear pedestrian pathways through the parking lots. Creating a clear sidewalk system through the parking lot and up to the Warner Park Community Recreation Center is another feature that garnered much input. Softening the view of the parking lots from Sherman Avenue to make them more aesthetically appealing was also proposed. A suggestion was also made about tweaking the green space off Trailsway for additional parking during ball season. The rationale was that it would provide parking for people who use the other side of the park. Spaces in the parking lot would be lost with the installation of appropriate bioswells and this would help to replace those spaces. These ideas are all suggestions from the Steering Committee that they felt were important and will require further analysis.

In response to a question regarding whether now is the time for a major redesign of the park in light of the fact that the Park Commission has discussed this park for years, including changing the orientation of the baseball diamond, it was noted that the Steering Committee identified what was important and also believes the park has some deficits that could be improved with a reinvestment of resources. They include keeping the large natural area with a bird habitat, taking more pride in the playgrounds and a proposed swimming pool. In a planning process you begin by finding out what people think. This is a regional park that hosts hundreds of thousands of people a year and merits additional conversation. Another aspect is how to transport people to the park using alternate forms of transportation both now and in the future and to identify potential drop off points while maintaining the green space. Nicolette noted that part of the plan is the redevelopment of the Towne Centre that could have a shared goal of additional parking. The neighborhood is working hard to create stronger connections for kids to get to the park via paths to signalized intersections. Imbedded in the plan are

methods to access the park via safe transportation links, i.e. bikes, pedestrians and motor vehicles.

Wallner congratulated the neighborhood for their work on this Plan. The park has always needed a focal entry point either off Sherman or Northport. The Northside doesn't have a strong, safe bike path system and a wayfinding system with a map would identify various Northside features and how to get to them.

Chewing commented on her experience in working on a neighborhood plan for her neighborhood and questioned whether this plan will be used. Nicolette responded that neighborhood plans are extremely important and as funding becomes available, components of the plan are implemented. It may not happen in the order the neighborhood would like or as fast as they would like, but it provides a tool to use when asking for items for the neighborhood. Skidmore added that the Common Council looks at neighborhood plans when funding is available, and uses the recommendations contained in those plans to improve the neighborhood.

Registered Speakers:

NAME	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	Warner Park portion of Plan
Jolena Presti,	support		
Jim Carrier,	OPPOSE		Warner Park portion of Plan
Trish O'Kane,	OPPOSE		Warner Park portion of Plan
Steve Hurst,	OPPOSE		Warner Park portion of Plan
Bill Tuschl/Judy Woelfel,	not speaking,	OPPOSE	Warner Park portion of Plan
Andy Tauber,	OPPOSE		Warner Park portion of Plan
Peter Cannon,	support		
Marie Jacobson,	OPPOSE		Warner Park portion of Plan
Jack Hurst,	OPPOSE		Warner Park portion of Plan
Caren Whalen,	OPPOSE		Warner Park portion of Plan
Ald. Satya Rhodes-Conway			, neutral

Ald. Satya Rhodes-Conway addressed the Commission and thanked the neighborhoods for their hard work, time and effort in developing this plan. This plan is a collection of thoughts from the neighborhood. She pledged to take the suggestions in priority order and work them through the city process. However, once the plan is adopted everything may not be done exactly as it is written. Neighborhood Plans are used as strong guides but they are not "written in stone." The Northside has an excellent record of implementing recommendations in its neighborhood plans.

There is not anything necessarily wrong with the current Warner Park Master Plan but it comes to the top of the recommendations because it needs to be reviewed and updated. There have been a number of items that have come forward since the Master Plan was written, including perhaps a pool and changes at the baseball stadium that will not be occurring at the present time due to lack of funding.

Discussions have also occurred regarding the expansion of the WPCRC. It is clear that not all stakeholders have been heard from regarding what happens in the park and that would occur during a park planning process, not necessarily a neighborhood planning process. During a park planning

process, input would be solicited from not only the neighborhoods but a broader set of stakeholders that would include people who work with the various conservation groups and their multiple constituencies. There needs to be a voice that speaks about conservation in the park.

Until a formal process toward a new Master Plan begins, the Park Commission is encouraged to pay attention to the long term sustainability of the park and its multiple uses. It is Rhodes-Conway's understanding that there is an agreement regarding the balance of active and passive uses in the park and that balance should be maintained. There are a lot of demands for use of this park and those uses may need to be reviewed on occasion to make sure that balance remains since it's easy to only hear the voices asking for more active uses and to forget those that are asking for more passive/natural uses.

Additional items to be addressed in the park master planning process are improved pedestrian and bike access to the park. Metro has been contacted about running a bus through the parking lot to reach WPCRC instead of having to cross major streets, without cross walks, to reach it. Conversations are occurring about the length of Sherman between the park and the shopping center and what would enhance pedestrian safety where the driveways meet. Aesthetic enhancements at the entrances to the park are also important to this jewel of the Northside. The Park Commission was encouraged to look at the recommendations regarding the parking lots and incorporating bioswells and different configurations for green technologies.

The Steering Committee asked that something be done to improve the water quality in the lagoon but what that is, is unknown at this point. It was suggested that discussions regarding the water quality in the lagoon occur with knowledgeable individuals.

The Park Commission was asked to incorporate those statements heard this evening that they believe should be added, altered or deleted in the plan when making their motion to the Plan Commission. There are a number of areas where statements regarding the priorities of conservation could be inserted. A statement could be included that when the Park Commission takes up the Warner Park Master Plan, the following items will be addressed and that list would be inserted. The Park Commission is advisory to the Plan Commission on this and the Plan Commission is advisory to the Common Council.

The Park Commission could also refer this item to its next meeting which would push back the schedule for adoption until after the next Park Commission meeting. The Plan Commission would then also need to delay action for one month. The Park Commission could also instruct Parks staff that between now and when the Plan Commission meets, they meet and address the issues heard tonight and include them in a memo to the Plan Commission.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Wallner to approve Resolution 15282 Adopting the Northport-Warner Park-Sherman Neighborhood Plan as a supplement to the City of Madison Comprehensive Plan.

Many good comments were made regarding the need for an updated Master Plan for Warner Park that include sustainability issues, bird and wildlife habitat, and improved parking lots. The Commission should not micromanage

this process but should direct Parks and Planning staff to work together on an updated Master Plan. It appears there is a group of individuals who were not part of the neighborhood planning meetings. They need to be included in the master planning process so information regarding water quality and wildlife are incorporated into the master plan.

Chewning expressed concern about the pressure for construction and group active uses. There is a need to protect the refuge for migratory birds, to do a careful environmental survey of wildlife and to take a careful look at any future parking lots. She cannot support it without language addressing those areas.

A substitute motion was made by Wallner/Chewning to refer Resolution 15282 Adopting the Northport-Warner Park-Sherman Neighborhood Plan as a supplement to the City of Madison Comprehensive Plan for one month with instructions to Parks and Planning staff to prepare a memo that, while not containing specific recommendations, will incorporate language addressing environmental preservation, conservation, birding, water quality and parking lot issues heard this evening. **MOTION CARRIED** with Skidmore voting no.

A motion was made by Wallner, seconded by Chewning, to Refer to the **BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**, due back on 10/14/2009. The motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 6 -

Joseph R. Clausius; David L. Wallner; Betty Chewning; Emanuel Scarbrough; Janet Parker and William W. Barker

Noes: 1 -

Paul E. Skidmore

- B. [15784](#) Authorizing the execution of a Utility Easement to Madison Gas and Electric Company for underground electrical service to serve a new Parks Division facility at 15 Van Deusen Street.

A motion was made by Clausius, seconded by Skidmore, to Refer to the **BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**, due back on 10/14/2009. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

- C. **Request from Nadine Davis of the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation of America requesting use of Warner Park on Saturday, May 22, 2010 for an evening walk and picnic.**

Registered Speaker:

NAME	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Nadine Davis	XX	

A motion was made by Scarbrough/Wallner to approve the request from Nadine Davis of the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation of America requesting use of Warner Park on Saturday, May 22, 2010 for an evening walk and picnic subject to sponsor’s compliance with the recommendations set forth by the Parks

Division. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. [12176](#) Creating Section 8.32 of the Madison General Ordinances to create policies and procedures for removal of personal property from public lands.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Clausius to refer Ordinance #12176 creating Section 8.32 of the Madison General Ordinances to create policies and procedures for removal of personal property from public lands to a future meeting at the request of the Mayor’s office. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

This Ordinance was Refer to the BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS, due back on 12/9/2009

- B. [15010](#) Communication from T. Consigny, 8507 Reid Dr., Madison dated 5/27/09 re: maintenance of Junction Ridge Park.

This issue has been brought up by citizens in the past about people who do not use our parks due to their allergies. There is no illusion that this letter will generate changes, it was written to bring awareness to the weeds. If pesticides are not used, some method to keep weeds down is needed.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Scarborough to place on file without prejudice Legistar ID#15010 Communication from T. Consigny, 8507 Reid Dr., Madison dated 5/27/09 re: maintenance of Junction Ridge Park. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

This Communication was Place On File Without Prejudice

C. Elizabeth Link Peace Park

Approved the construction redesign.

Registered Speaker:

NAME	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Ken Saiki	XX	

An update on the construction redesign was presented. The original design was approved by the Park Commission on July 8, 2009. However there is a funding issue and the second story element was eliminated to reduce costs. The BID also requested that an ATM machine be located in the building. It is anticipated that the annual rental for the ATM would fund an additional 400 hours of staffing time in the building. The revenue from the ATM could be used toward maintenance of the building or to enhance the Ambassador program. The building itself is 900 square feet and includes two restrooms and a police desk in addition to the Ambassador station and is to be totally paid for by private donations.

The Urban Design Commission requested that some type of peace expression also be incorporated. International peace gardens and peace poles were researched to determine what might best symbolize this park. An 8 foot high peace pole has been chosen to express the Peace Park ideal. It would be located in the middle of the entry plaza off State Street. The final composition of the pole has not been determined, but will probably be a steel core, covered in wood. The Peace Pole prototype is about 4" square. This pole would become part of a vast network of peace parks. The pole would also have inscriptions in multiple languages. This latest concept will be presented to the Urban Design Commission on September 16.

There will be a plaque with information about Elizabeth Link, the history of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and the relationship to Peace Park. Many people believe that Peace Park refers to the Peace movement of the 1960's, but in fact, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom goes back as far as World War I.

Ald. Verveer added his endorsement for the revised design and peace pole and acknowledged the hard work of Parks staff, Bill Bauer and Kay Rutledge, as they worked through all the changes to the design. The changes are pushing back the groundbreaking for construction to this coming January, with completion scheduled for late summer. President Barker interjected that the Park Commission toured the park in August and were surrounded by a group of people, some of whom were hostile, who screamed at members to leave their park alone. Starting in January is probably a good idea in light of that atmosphere. It is unfortunate that their energy couldn't be more productive in working together on the plan. Verveer continued that there are many homeless and addiction issues related to the people who congregate there and many different social service groups try to work with them. They have been invited to meet with the group working on the renovation but they do not attend the meetings or follow through with any suggestions. Verveer provided information regarding the length of time the Elizabeth (Lisa) Link Peace Park Committee has been meeting and how the group arrived at consensus for each component. Renovating the park isn't about kicking people out of the park; they can return when construction is done.

Commissioners indicated they like the peace pole concept but don't support the ATM. Chewing reported she spoke with an individual during the tour who indicated he'd like a mission, a place to get a few bus tickets, a place where people could find out where they could locate different social services, similar to what Community Action Coalition does. She thought the space could also be used as an information site for these types of services.

Verveer reported that Susan Schmitz has worked very hard through the years on a program called Reach Out. The downtown business community pools financial resources and works with the community to combat panhandling. It is also intended to be a resource for people who need assistance and provide booklets that answer social service questions about meals and sleeping accommodations, etc. It has been his impression that once the Visitor Center is built, the Ambassadors will hand out those booklets in addition to assisting tourists. Different locations that serve food and provide sleeping accommodations were mentioned. He also stated that the police will only have a small work space for a computer and phone line to accommodate one officer, and there will not be police insignia advertising their presence in the building.

Many of the consumers of the park believe the Center will be a police station and that it is the intention of police security cameras in the park to monitor their actions, but that is not true.

Parker then questioned whether United Way and/or 211 might want to have a presence in the park or at the Visitor Center. Verveer will mention this to the Peace Park Committee and the BID Board. He believes that the amenities, including the stage, landscaping and green space, a water feature, the peace pole and Visitor Center will be well received.

The ATM fees could be used toward fundraising for the building, or maintenance of the building, or to keep the Visitor Center open and staffed with a combination of paid and volunteer Ambassadors, or toward maintenance of the park. The BID and the Parks Division haven't yet made that determination. It is an amenity for visitors. It was noted that the Park Commission could mandate that it will be a surcharge free machine for users but members chose not to do so.

A motion was made by Skidmore/Scarborough to approve the redesign drawings of the Visitor Center including the ATM. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Diseased and Dead Elms and Oaks on Private Property, 2008 Requiring Condemnation

RECOMMEND THAT AT THE OCTOBER 14 2009 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS, A PUBLIC HEARING BE HELD BEGINNING AT 6:45 P.M. TO DECLARE DISEASED AND DEAD ELMS AND OAKS A PUBLIC NUISANCE ACCORDING TO CITY OF MADISON GENERAL ORDINANCE 23.40 (4)(B).

A motion was made by Chewing/Clausius that at the October 14 2009 meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners, a Public Hearing be held beginning at 6:45 P.M. to declare Diseased and Dead Elms and Oaks a Public Nuisance according to City of Madison General Ordinance 23.40 (4)(B). **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Scarborough/Wallner the meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.