



# Dane County

## Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

### Park Commission

*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, March 27, 2024

5:30 PM Hybrid Meeting: Attend in person at the Heritage Center  
Upper Level, 3101 Lake Farm Rd, Madison; attend  
virtually via Zoom

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#### A. Call To Order

*Chair Thoresen called the Park Commission meeting to order at 5:30 PM.*

*Staff Present: Lael Pascual, Sharene Smith, Chris James.*

*Youth Governance Member Steve Hoang present.*

*Others Present: Matt Reetz, Mark Martin.*

**Present:** 5 - STEFANIE BROUWER, ANALIESE EICHER, DAVE RIPP, TOM THORESEN and  
GRACE MORAN

**Excused:** 2 - NANCY BOGUE and KRISTIE GOFORTH

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

[2023](#) Minutes of the March 13, 2024 Park Commission  
[MIN-576](#)

**Attachments:** [PC Registration Report 3-13-2024](#)

[2023 MIN-576 PC Minutes 3-13-24](#)

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by MORAN, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0, YGP 1-0.

#### C. Referrals (Resolutions & Ordinance Amendments)

1. [2023](#) DANE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AWARD TO TOWN OF  
[RES-402](#) DUNN AND GROUNDSWELL CONSERVANCY

**Sponsors:** RIPP, DOWNING and ENGELBERGER

**Attachments:** [2023 RES-402](#)

[2023 RES-402 FISCAL NOTE](#)

[2023 RES-402 AREA MAP](#)

[2023 RES-402 SUBJECT MAP](#)

A motion was made by RIPP, seconded by BROUWER, that the Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0, YGP 1-0.

2. [2023 RES-403](#) DANE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AWARD TO DRIFTLESS AREA LAND CONSERVANCY

**Sponsors:** RIPP, DOWNING and ENGELBERGER

- Attachments:** [2023 RES-403](#)  
[2023 RES-403 FISCAL NOTE](#)  
[2023 RES-403 AREA MAP](#)  
[2023 RES-403 SUBJECT MAP](#)

A motion was made by RIPP, seconded by BROUWER, that the Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0, YGP 1-0.

**D. Items Requiring Committee Action - None**

**E. Presentations**

1. Conservation Fund Grant Application from Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance for the Southwest Grasslands in the Town of Christiana

*Matt Reetz, Executive Direction for Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance gave an overview of the organization, the proposed property acquisition, its current restoration efforts and the grant request. The SWBA intends to acquire 348 acres of grassland, woodland and prairie in the Town of Christiana. It has been awarded a DNR Knowles Nelson Stewardship Grant for the purchase and is requesting a grant of \$912,000 for the remainder of the purchase price. If acquired, SWBA would continue restoration work and manage the property for bird and wildlife habitat and public access including hiking, hunting, and educational programming.*

[2023 RPT-621](#) Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance Koshkonong Prairie Sanctuary

**Attachments:** [Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance Koshkonong Prairie Sanctuary Presentation](#)

2. Education program update

*Lael Pascual, Engagement and Visitor Services Manager gave a presentation and update on LWRD programs for 2024.*

[2023 RPT-620](#) Education Program Update

**Attachments:** [Education Program Update Presentation](#)

3. Youth Governance Program thank you

*Chair Ripp presented Youth Governance Program member Steve Hoang with a Dane County Parks swag bag as a thank you for his dedication and participation in Park Commission this school year.*

**F. Reports to Committee**

1. Review of public comments for Walking Iron Trail

*Chris James gave an overview of public comments received for the Walking Iron Trail project along with outlining the next steps in the process. The Great Sauk Trail stakeholder planning team will meet next to discuss recommendations on trail surface and recreational uses.*

[2023](#) Walking Iron Trail Public Comment Summary  
[RPT-619](#)

**Attachments:** [Walking Iron Trail Public Comment Summary Presentation](#)

2. Upcoming Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan Public Information Meetings

*Chris James reviewed the upcoming POSP Public Input Meeting dates.*

Wednesday, April 3, 7:00 PM - Hybrid Meeting  
Heritage Center upper level  
3101 Lake Farm Road, Madison, 53711

Monday, April 15, 7:00 PM - Hybrid Meeting  
Village of Windsor Municipal Building  
4084 Muller Road, DeForest, 53532

**G. Future Meeting Items and Dates**

1. Wednesday, April 17, 2024 - Hybrid Meeting  
Heritage Center upper level  
3101 Lake Farm Rd, Madison
2. Wednesday, May 22, 2024  
outdoor meeting at a park property, location TBD

**H. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda**

*Supervisor Ripp asked about the Indian Lake County Park closure due to WisDOT's Hwy 19 reconstruction project. Lael Pascual provided an update that the park will be closed starting April 22, 2024. The park will remain closed for 30 days for the installation of a pedestrian underpass connecting Indian Lake County Park to the Halfway Prairie Wildlife Area.*

**I. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law - None**

**J. Adjourn**

**A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by MORAN, that the Meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0, YGP 1-0.**

*Meeting adjourned 6:41 PM.*

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Lael Pascual, pending Park Commission approval.*