



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?

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

5:30 PM

Viking County Park
Boat Launch Parking Lot
2525 County Highway B
Stoughton, WI 53589

A. Call To Order

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

Staff Present: Alex DeSmidt, Lael Pascual, Sharene Smith, Joleen Stinson.

Others Present: Gene Delcourt, Stacy Levin, Alison Volk.

Present: 5 - ANALIESE EICHER, TOM THORESEN, GRACE MORAN, KRISTIE GOFORTH and
DON POSTLER

Excused: 2 - NANCY BOGUE and STEFANIE BROUWER

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2025](#)
[MIN-094](#)

Minutes of the May 28, 2025 Park Commission

Attachments: [2025 MIN-094 Park Commission Minutes 05-28-2025](#)

A motion was made by POSTLER, seconded by MORAN, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote 4-0, EICHER abstained.

Chair Thoresen requested to move the Action Items and Presentations up on the agenda. There was unanimous consent by Park Commission members.

D. Items Requiring Committee Action

1. Acceptance of sculpture donation from the Harry Whitehorse Int'l Wood Sculpture Festival to be installed at Fish Camp County Park

A motion was made by EICHER, seconded by POSTLER, to accept a wood sculpture by artist Thorsten Schütt called "We Will Miss the Water" from the Harry Whitehorse International Wood Sculpture Festival to be installed at Fish Camp County Park. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

[2025
RPT-149](#)

Harry Whitehorse International Wood Sculpture Festival Sculpture Donation
Memo

Attachments: [Request for Acceptance of Donated Sculpture from the Harry
Whitehorse International Wood Sculpture Festival](#)

2. Conservation Fund Grant Application from the Village of Belleville for a trailhead purchase, Sugar River NRA

A motion was made by EICHER, seconded by MORAN, to direct staff to prepare the resolution to award a Dane County Conservation Fund Grant to the Village of Belleville. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

E. Presentations

1. Buy, Protect, Sell Program, Makar Parcel

Alison Volk from American Farmland Trust presented its Buy, Protect, Sell Program, through which they purchase farmland, place a conservation easement on it, and resell it to an emerging farmer. They are requesting a Dane County Conservation Fund Grant to help acquire the agricultural conservation easement on a 21-acre property in the Town of Verona. The buyer and seller have been identified, and closing is anticipated this fall.

[2025
RPT-164](#)

American Farmland Trust Memo and Maps

Attachments: [American Farmland Trust Memo Requesting a Dane County
Conservation Fund Grant](#)

2. History of Viking County Park and the first Dane County Dog Park

Viking County Park is historically significant as Dane County's first dog park. Today, it features off-leash dog areas, picnic space, open fields, and multi-use trails. A key trail on the south end connects directly into Stoughton's Amundson Park, linking county and city recreation areas.

C. Referrals (Resolutions & Ordinance Amendments)

1. [2025
RES-048](#) AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FROM THE FOUNDATION FOR DANE COUNTY PARKS TO DEVELOP A CAREER PATHWAYS PROGRAM

Sponsors: CHAWLA, ROSE, POSTLER, MARREN, ENGELBERGER and RITT

Attachments: [2025 RES-048](#)
[2025 RES-048 FISCAL NOTE](#)

A motion was made by GOFORTH, seconded by EICHER, that the Resolution Requiring 2/3rds Vote be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote.

2. [2025
RES-064](#) AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE OF LAND FOR BABCOCK COUNTY PARK

Sponsors: CHAWLA, POSTLER, FRIES, ENGELBERGER and RITT

Attachments: [RES-064](#)
[RES-064 FISCAL NOTE](#)
[2025 RES-064 MAP](#)

A motion was made by EICHER, seconded by MORAN, that the Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

3. [2025
RES-065](#) AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF ADDITIONAL GRANT FUNDING FROM WisDOT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE CAPITAL CITY TO GLACIAL DRUMLIN TRAIL CONNECTOR PATH

Sponsors: PETERSON, ROSE, POSTLER, FRIES, ENGELBERGER and RITT

Attachments: [2025 RES-065](#)
[2025 RES-065 FISCAL NOTE](#)

A motion was made by EICHER, seconded by GOFORTH, that the Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

4. [2025
RES-066](#) AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE OF LAND FOR MCCARTHY YOUTH AND CONSERVATION COUNTY PARK

Sponsors: PETERSON, POSTLER, FRIES, ENGELBERGER and RITT

Attachments: [2025 RES-066](#)
[2025 RES-066 FISCAL NOTE](#)
[2025 RES-066 MAP](#)

A motion was made by EICHER, seconded by MORAN, that the Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

5. [2025
RES-067](#) ADOPTING THE 2025 - 2030 DANE COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

Sponsors: CHAWLA, EICHER, POSTLER, BOLLIG, ROSE, MARREN, ENGELBERGER and RITT

Attachments: [2025 RES-067](#)
[2025 RES-067 FISCAL NOTE](#)
[2025 RES-067 PARKS OPEN SPACE PLAN REPORT](#)
[2025 RES-067 PARKS OPEN SPACE PLAN MAP](#)
[2025 RES-067 PARKS OPEN SPACE PLAN REGIONAL TRAILS
MAP](#)

A motion was made by MORAN, seconded by EICHER, that the Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

F. Reports to Committee**G. Future Meeting Items and Dates**

1. Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 5:30 pm
Stewart Lake County Park
3106 County Highway JG
Mount Horeb, WI 53572
2. Wednesday, July 23, 2025 at 5:30 pm
Sugar River Wildlife Area Davidson Unit
1855 State Highway 69
Verona, WI 53593

H. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda**J. Closed Session**

A motion was made by EICHER, seconded by POSTLER, that the Meeting enter into closed session. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 - Supervisor EICHER, Chair THORESEN, MORAN, Second Vice Chair GOFORTH and Supervisor POSTLER

The Commission (or Committee) plans to meet in closed session for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the purchasing or acquiring of property where open discussion of bargaining positions and strategies would discourage bargaining and harm the public's interest in obtaining properties. The authority for this possible closed session is Wis.Stat.19.85(1)(e).

K. Return to Open Session

A motion was made by GOFORTH, seconded by MORAN, that the Meeting exit out of closed session. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 - Supervisor EICHER, Chair THORESEN, MORAN, Second Vice Chair GOFORTH and Supervisor POSTLER

I. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

Commissioners gave tribute to Grace Moran at her final meeting, expressing appreciation for her service and dedication, as she steps down due to moving out of the county.

L. Adjourn

A motion was made by EICHER, seconded by MORAN, that the Meeting be adjourned in honor of Grace Moran. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

Meeting adjourned 6:52 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Joleen Stinson, pending Park Commission approval.