



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, October 25, 2023

5:30 PM

Cherokee Marsh NRA East Trailhead
5720 River Road, Waunakee 53597

A. Call To Order

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

Staff Present: Joleen Stinson, Adam Alves.

Youth Governance Member Steve Hoang present.

*Others Present: Friends of Cherokee Marsh Representatives Jan Axelson, Jim Mand,
Mary Manering, Dennis Tande, Sheila Leary, Linda Malkin.*

Present: 6 - NANCY BOGUE, STEFANIE BROUWER, ANALIESE EICHER, DAVE RIPP, TOM
THORESEN and GRACE MORAN

Excused: 1 - KRISTIE GOFORTH

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2023](#)
[MIN-351](#)

Minutes of the October 11, 2023 Park Commission

Attachments: [PC 10-11-23](#)

A motion was made by RIPP, seconded by MORAN, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote 6-0, YGP 1-0.

C. Referrals (Resolutions & Ordinance Amendments) - None

D. Items Requiring Committee Action - None

E. Presentations

1. Forestry Program Update

Adam Alves, Forester Specialist, gave an overview of forestry initiatives, including disease management, tree planting, orchards in the park system, storm damage mitigation, hazardous tree removal, career pathway partnership with Madison College's Urban Forestry program, and the development of a tree ambassador volunteer program. Dane County Parks recently received notification of a \$1.5 million USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act grant award, more details to come.

2. Forestry Gravel Bed

A gravel bed is a way of holding bare root trees and extending the bare root planting season. Benefits of using gravel beds include: bare root stock is more affordable, transplanting bare root trees takes less time and less equipment, holding trees in the gravel bed allow for the growth of fibrous root systems which increase transplant success. Dane County Parks started with a trial gravel bed of ~70 trees and has grown the gravel bed program significantly since then. Trees from the gravel bed are planted by both staff and volunteers. Adam Alves, Forester Specialist, led a tour of the gravel bed and demonstrated how effective it is.

3. Friends of Cherokee Marsh

The Friends of Cherokee Marsh formed in 2007. They are a membership based organization with about 100 members. They work with Dane County Parks, City of Madison Parks and the DNR to protect, restore, and foster appreciation and enjoyment of Cherokee Marsh's lands, waters, and living beauty. Recent projects include: hiring a shared summer intern crew through the Prairie Partners, kiosk enhancements at Yahara Heights County Park and the Cherokee Marsh NRA, hosting a Madison Naturalist class and working collaboratively with DCP to close a portion of trail that was too close to Native American mounds. Their annual meeting will be Saturday, January 27, 2024 at 10 AM at Warner Park.

4. History of Cherokee Marsh Natural Resource Area, Yahara Heights County Park and Cherokee Marsh Wildlife Area

Cherokee Marsh is an extensive wetland complex with more than 2,000 acres of public property protected by county, city and state agencies along both the east and west sides of the Yahara River. Cherokee Marsh is designated as an urban "Wetland Gem" by the Wisconsin Wetland Association and serves to provide wildlife habitat, water quality protection and flood attenuation for the City of Madison and Dane County. Recreational amenities at Yahara Heights County Park include a 20 acre pet exercise area, hiking trails, and a canoe and kayak launch. The Cherokee Marsh Natural Resource Area offers about 4 miles of hiking trails. The Cherokee Marsh Wildlife Area is a public hunting area.

F. Reports to Committee - None

G. Future Meeting Items and Dates

1. Wednesday, November 15, 2023 - Hybrid Meeting
Heritage Center lower level
3101 Lake Farm Rd, Madison
2. Wednesday, December 6, 2023 - Hybrid Meeting
Heritage Center lower level
3101 Lake Farm Rd, Madison

H. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

Youth Governance Member Steve Hoang inquired about water quality in local lakes. Staff will follow up with a list of resources about the work the Land & Water Resources Department does to improve water quality in the Yahara Chain of Lakes.

I. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law - None

J. Adjourn

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by BOGUE, that the Meet be adjourned. The motion carried by a voice vote 6-0, YGP 1-0.

Meeting adjourned 6:37 PM.

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