



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, July 23, 2025

5:30 PM

Sugar River Wildlife Area Davidson Unit
1855 State Highway 69
Verona, WI 53593

A. Call To Order

Chair Thoresen called the Park Commission Meeting to order at 5:30 PM.
Staff Present: Alex DeSmidt, Lindsay Koehnke, Andy Paulios, Sharene Smith,
Joleen Stinson.

Present: 6 - NANCY BOGUE, STEFANIE BROUWER, ANALIESE EICHER, TOM THORESEN,
KRISTIE GOFORTH and DON POSTLER

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2025](#)
[MIN-194](#)

Minutes of the July 9, 2025 Park Commission Meeting

Attachments: [2025 MIN 194 Park Commission Minutes 7-9-2025](#)

A motion was made by EICHER, seconded by BROUWER, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote.

C. Referrals (Resolutions & Ordinance Amendments)

- [2025](#)
[RES-103](#) CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER #01- WALKING IRON
TRAIL-CONSTRUCTION- 6715 CTH 78, MAZOMANIE, WI- CONTRACTOR:
ZENITH TECH INC

Sponsors: ENGELBERGER and DOOLAN

Attachments: [2025 RES-103](#)
[2025 RES-103 FISCAL NOTE](#)
[2025 RES-103 CO#01](#)

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by EICHER, that the Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote 6-0.

2. [2025
RES-093](#) AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF WETLAND CREDITS FROM THE CHEROKEE MARSH - WISCONSIN AGRICULTURAL MITIGATION BANK

Sponsors: CHAWLA, POSTLER, ENGELBERGER and DOWNING

Attachments: [2025 RES-093](#)
[2025 RES-093 FISCAL NOTE](#)

A motion was made by POSTLER, seconded by BROUWER, that the Resolution Requiring 2/3rds Vote be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote 6-0.

3. [2025
RES-092](#) AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR STATE OF WISCONSIN DNR URBAN FORESTRY REGULAR GRANT PROGRAM

Sponsors: CHAWLA, BARUSHOK, POSTLER, ENGELBERGER, DOWNING, DOOLAN and ROSE

Attachments: [2025 RES-092](#)
[2025 RES-092 FISCAL NOTE](#)

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by EICHER, that the Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote 6-0.

4. [2025
RES-091](#) DANE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AWARD TO THE VILLAGE OF BELLEVILLE

Sponsors: DOWNING, CHAWLA, ENGELBERGER and FRIES

Attachments: [2025 RES-091](#)
[RES-091 FISCAL NOTE](#)
[2025 RES-091 MAP](#)
[2025 RES-091 TRAIL MAP](#)

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by GOFORTH, that the Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote 6-0.

5. [2025
RES-090](#) AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE OF AN AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT FOR AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST BUY-SELL-PROTECT PROGRAM

Sponsors: CHAWLA, POSTLER, ENGELBERGER, DOWNING, FRIES, DOOLAN and ROSE

Attachments: [2025 RES-090](#)
[2025 RES-090 FISCAL NOTE](#)
[2025 RES-090 MAP](#)

A motion was made by GOFORTH, seconded by BOGUE, that the Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote 6-0.

D. Items Requiring Committee Action**1. Friends Capital Grant Award for Anderson Park Friends**

Joleen Stinson provided an overview of the Friends Capital Grant Program and the Anderson Park Friends' grant application for tree removal.

A motion was made by EICHER, seconded by BOGUE, that the Anderson Park Friends be awarded a \$3,900 Friends Capital Grant to hire a certified arborist for tree removal. The motion carried by a voice vote 6-0.

[2025](#)
[RPT-214](#)

Friends Capital Grant Award Memo

Attachments: [Memo to Park Commission for Capital Grant Award Anderson Park Friends](#)

E. Presentations**1. History of Sugar River Wildlife Area**

Property stabilization on newer units of SRWA

Davidson House

Falk Wells Sugar River Wildlife Area restoration project

Alex DeSmidt and Lindsay Koehnke provided an update on the Sugar River Wildlife Area, including recent property acquisitions between 2020 and 2024 that expanded the site by 861 acres. Efforts to stabilize and open new units include demolishing old farm buildings and adding parking lots, with the goal of public access by the fall gun deer hunting season. They also shared updates on the Davidson stone house, which recently received a new roof and the removal of the non-stone addition is planned for this winter. Construction on the adjacent Falk Wells wetland restoration project is expected to begin soon.

2. DRAFT Proposed 2026 Park Fees

Joleen Stinson presented an overview of the draft proposed 2026 park permit, reservation, and education program fees. Most proposed fee increases are modest and focused on areas not raised last year. Some replacement permits will increase to be consistent at \$20. The special event permit will effectively increase by \$25 as the application fee will no longer serve as a deposit, aligning with the recurring program permit structure. Charges for additional electric setups, utility marking, and mowing (primarily for grass parking) will also rise to reflect actual service costs, which have outpaced previous rates. For education programs, fees aim to remain as low as possible while covering actual material and staff costs. Increases are primarily tied to transportation expenses for camps and higher-cost field trips. A public hearing on the proposed fees is scheduled for August 27, with Park Commission action planned for September 10, 2025. Commissioners supported the draft proposed 2026 fees and directed staff to clarify in the education program fee document that the fee goal is cost recovery, with scholarships available.

[2025
RPT-209](#)

Dane County Parks Fee History With DRAFT Proposed 2026 Fees for Discussion

Attachments: [Park Permit Fee History With Proposed 2026 & Educational Program Fees Proposed 2026](#)

F. Reports to Committee

1. 2025 Volunteer Appreciation Picnic: Tuesday, September 9, 2025, 5:00 PM

Commissions are invited to attend the Volunteer Appreciation Picnic.

[2025
RPT-210](#)

2025 Volunteer Appreciation Picnic Save the Date

Attachments: [2025 Volunteer Picnic Save the Date](#)

G. Future Meeting Items and Dates

1. Wednesday, August 27 at 5:30 pm
Public Hearing for 2026 Fees
Heritage Center, Upper Level
3101 Lake Farm Rd, Madison
2. Wednesday, September 10 at 5:30 pm
Heritage Center, Upper Level
3101 Lake Farm Rd, Madison

H. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

I. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

J. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned 7:08 PM.

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