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, March 11, 2026 | **5:30 PM** | **Hybrid Meeting: Attend in person at the Heritage Center Upper Level, 3101 Lake Farm Rd, Madison; attend virtually via Zoom**

A. Call To Order

Chair Thoresen called the Park Commission Meeting to order at 5:30 PM.
Staff Present: Alex DeSmidt, Lael Pascual, Joleen Stinson.
Youth Governance Program Member Aleena Sanghvan present.
Others Present: Chad DeChateau, Judie Pfeifer.

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

Excused: 1 - KRISTIE GOFORTH

Remembrance - William G. Lunney

Chair Thoresen, along with several commissioners, shared heartfelt memories and reflections honoring Bill's lasting contributions. They spoke warmly of his dedication, leadership, and passion for parks and public service.

B. Consideration of Minutes

2025 MIN-571 — Minutes of the February 11, 2026 Park Commission

Attachments: 2025 MIN-571 Park Commission Minutes 02-11-2026
Park Commission Registration Report 02-11-2026

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by BANKS, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote 6-0.

Chair Thoresen requested to move the Presentation up on the agenda. There was unanimous consent by Park Commission members.

D. Presentations

1. Proposed Ice Age Trail Realignment in Indian Lake County Park

Chad DeChateau, Field Project Manager for the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA), provided an overview of IATA's statewide trail work. IATA staff and volunteers build and maintain sustainable trails. IATA staff submit trail project proposals to the National Park Service for review and approval before scheduling trail crew events. Approximately a 7,500-foot Ice Age Trail realignment in Indian Lake County Park is scheduled as a five-day build event in September.

2025 RPT-803 Ice Age Trail Alliance Realignment in Indian Lake County Park Presentation

Attachments: Ice Age Trail Alliance Realignment in Indian Lake County Park Presentation

C. Referrals (Resolutions & Ordinance Amendments)

2025 RES-391 AUTHORIZING 2026 PURCHASE OF SERVICES AGREEMENT AND ADDENDUM WITH OPERATION FRESH START INC FOR COMPLETING CONSERVATION WORK ON COUNTY PARKLAND

Sponsors: CHAWLA, POSTLER, BLAZEWICZ and MARREN

Attachments: 2025 RES-391

2025 RES-391 FISCAL NOTE

2025 RES-391 CONTRACT #15749A

2025 RES-391 CONTRACT #16204

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by EICHER, that the Resolution Requiring 2/3rds Vote be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0, BANKS abstained, YPG 1-0.

2025 RES-392 AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FROM THE FOUNDATION FOR DANE COUNTY PARKS TO SUPPORT DANE COUNTY PARKS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Sponsors: CHAWLA, POSTLER, BLAZEWICZ and MARREN

Attachments: 2025 RES-392

2025 RES-392 FISCAL NOTE

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by EICHER, that the Resolution Requiring 2/3rds Vote be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote 6-0, YPG 1-0.

2025 RES-393 AUTHORIZING DONATION OF FUNDS LAND RESTORATION AT MORTON FOREST

Sponsors: CHAWLA, POSTLER, BLAZEWICZ and MARREN

Attachments: 2025 RES-393

2025 RES-393 FISCAL NOTE

A motion was made by EICHER, seconded by BROUWER, that the Resolution Requiring 2/3rds Vote be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote 6-0, YPG 1-0.

E. Reports to Committee

1. 2027 Park Fee Initial Discussion

Staff reviewed the County budget deficit and potential impacts to staff levels and services, and requested early Parks Commission guidance on pursuing 2027 fee adjustments to help offset cuts. Commissioners were asked to consider options such as non-Dane County resident permit rates and lowering the permit age threshold to 12. Fee discussions will be a standing agenda item at most meetings leading up to the June 10, 2026 public hearing, and a generally supported draft proposal is needed by mid-May for outreach. Supervisor Postler volunteered to work with staff, and staff will compile data and options for initial direction at the March 25 meeting.

F. Items Requiring Committee Action

1. Select Summer Outdoor Meeting Locations

Commissioners discussed location options for outdoor meetings during the summer season. Discussion included a request to prioritize park properties that have not hosted a meeting in several years, and multiple parks were suggested. Chair Thoresen directed staff to compile and present a final summer outdoor meeting location schedule based on the locations discussed.

2025 RPT-716 Park Commission Outdoor Meeting Location History

Attachments: Park Commission Outdoor Meeting Location History

2025 RPT-464 2026 Park Commission Meeting Schedule

Attachments: 2026 PC Meeting Schedule updated 3-11-2026

G. Future Meeting Items and Dates

1. Wednesday, March 25, 2026
   Heritage Center
   3101 Lake Farm Rd, Madison
2. Wednesday, April 22, 2026
   Heritage Center
   3101 Lake Farm Rd, Madison

H. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

I. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

J. Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned 6:50 PM.
Minutes respectfully submitted by Joleen Stinson, pending Park Commission approval.