



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, April 22, 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, Laura Hicklin, Lael Pascual, Sharene Smith,
Joleen Stinson.

Others Present: Tony Abate.

Youth Governance Program Member Aleena Sanghvan present.

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

Excused: 1 - ANALIESE EICHER

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2025](#)
[MIN-661](#)

Minutes of the March 25, 2026 Park Commission

Attachments: [2025 MIN-661 Park Commission Minutes 03-25-26](#)

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

C. Referrals (Resolutions & Ordinance Amendments)

1. [2025](#)
[RES-430](#) AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ADDENDUM FOR 2026 FROM THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Sponsors: CHAWLA

Attachments: [2025 RES-430](#)
[2025 RES-430 FISCAL NOTE](#)

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

2. [2025 RES-431](#) ACCEPTANCE OF A WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES GRANT TO REPLACE SNOWMOBILE TRAIL BRIDGE ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

Sponsors: CHAWLA

Attachments: [2025 RES-431](#)
[2025 RES-431 FISCAL NOTE](#)
[2025 RES-431 CONTRACT #16294](#)

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

3. [2025 RES-433](#) AUTHORIZING THE EXTINGUISHMENT OF .4 ACRES OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT FOR HIGHWAY 51 PROJECT

Sponsors: CHAWLA and RYLANDER

Attachments: [2025 RES-433](#)
[2025 RES-433 FISCAL NOTE](#)
[2025 RES-433 MAP](#)

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

4. [2025 RES-434](#) AUTHORIZING A TEMPORARY LIMITED EASEMENT ON A CONSERVATION EASEMENT FOR HIGHWAY 51 PROJECT

Sponsors: CHAWLA and RYLANDER

Attachments: [2025 RES-434](#)
[2025 RES-434 FISCAL NOTE](#)
[2025 RES-434 MAP](#)

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by BANKS, that the Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote 6-0, YGP 1-0.

5. [2025 RES-435](#) AUTHORIZING THE PERMANENT PROTECTION OF LAND IN THE LOWER MUD LAKE NATURAL RESOURCE AREA AND PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HO-CHUNK NATION AND GROUNDSWELL CONSERVANCY

Sponsors: MILES, BARUSHOK and BRANDMEIER

Attachments: [2025 RES-435](#)
[2025 RES-435 FISCAL NOTE](#)
[2025 RES-435 MAP](#)

Tony Abate, Groundswell Conservancy's Senior Director of Conservation, spoke in support of this resolution.

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, YGP 1-0.

6. [2026 RES-001](#) AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PHASE 2 CONSTRUCTION OF THE WALKING IRON TRAIL

Sponsors: ENGELBERGER

Attachments: [2026 RES-001](#)
[2026 RES-001 FISCAL NOTE](#)

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by BANKS, that the Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote 6-0, YGP 1-0.

D. Items Requiring Committee Action

E. Presentations

F. Reports to Committee

1. Review 2027 Park Fee Recommendations

Draft 2027 park fee proposal includes an increase for annual permits, camping and shelter reservations, as well as an increase in daily permit fees to align with the new state park entry rate of \$13, and more substantial increases for non-Dane County residents, including the introduction of non-resident rates for permits that do not currently include that category. Resident annual cross-country ski permit fees will not be increased, recognizing that climate change continues to make snow conditions in southern Wisconsin increasingly unreliable. Cooperative permit partners have been notified of the proposed changes. Commissioners expressed support for the draft proposal, allowing public outreach and communication to begin in mid-May in preparation for the public hearing scheduled for June 10.

[2026](#)
[RPT-004](#)

Proposed 2027 Park Fees

Attachments: [Proposed 2027 Park Fees](#)

YGP Aleena Sanghvan left the meeting at 6:23 PM.

2. Ribbon Cutting at Mendota County Park
Friday, May 1, 2026 at 4:00 PM

G. Future Meeting Items and Dates

1. Thursday, May 7, 2026 Joint Meeting DATE CHANGE
Tentative New Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2026
Land & Water Resources Department
5201 Fen Oak Drive, Madison
2. Wednesday, May 27, 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. Closed Session

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

Ayes: 6 - BOGUE, Vice Chair BROUWER, Chair THORESEN, Second Vice Chair GOFORTH, Supervisor POSTLER and BANKS

The Commission (or Committee) met 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 BROUWER that the Meeting exit out of closed session. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 6 - BOGUE, Vice Chair BROUWER, Chair THORESEN, Second Vice Chair GOFORTH, Supervisor POSTLER and BANKS

L. Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned 7:11 PM.

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