



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, November 12, 2025

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.

Youth Governance Program Member Aleena Sanghvan present.

Others Present: Michelle Kille, Nicole Van Helden.

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

Excused: 1 - NANCY BOGUE

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2025](#)
[MIN-385](#)

Minutes of the October 22, 2025 Park Commission

Attachments: [2025 MIN-385 Park Commission Minutes 10-22-25](#)

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by GOFORTH, that the Minutes be
approved. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0, YPG 1-0, EICHER abstained.

C. Referrals (Resolutions & Ordinance Amendments)

1. [2025](#) AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF LAND IN THE TOWN OF WESTPORT
[RES-194](#)

Sponsors: KRONING, CHAWLA, BROWER, BLAZEWICZ and ENGELBERGER

Attachments: [2025 RES-194](#)
[2025 RES-194 FISCAL NOTE](#)
[2025-RES 194 AREA MAP](#)
[2025 RES-194 SUBJECT MAP](#)

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, YPG 1-0.

2. [2025 RES-222](#) AUTHORIZING A LAND ACQUISITION FOR MCCARTHY YOUTH AND CONSERVATION COUNTY PARK

Sponsors: PETERSON, POSTLER, ROSE and FRIES

Attachments: [2025 RES-222](#)
[2025 RES-222 FISCAL NOTE](#)
[2025 RES-222 AREA MAP](#)
[2025 RES-222 SUBJECT MAP](#)

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

3. [2025 RES-229](#) AGREEMENT CHANGE ORDERS #02 AND #03 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION OF THE WALKING IRON TRAIL, MAZOMANIE, WI; AGREEMENT WITH MSA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, INC.

Sponsors: ENGELBERGER

Attachments: [2025 RES-229](#)
[2025 RES-229 FISCAL NOTE](#)
[2025 RES-229 CO 2](#)
[2025 RES-229 CO 3](#)

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, YPG 1-0.

D. Items Requiring Committee Action

E. Presentations

1. Conservation Fund Grant Application from The Nature Conservancy for the McMeen parcel in the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area

Michele Kille and Nicole Van Helden gave an overview of The Nature Conservancy's work in Wisconsin and Dane County. The Nature Conservancy is working to acquire 36 acres in the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area in the Town of Town of Blue Mounds for this project. If acquired, the property will be actively managed for wildlife habitat and public access. The Nature Conservancy is requesting a Dane County Conservation Fund Grant for 50% of the acquisition costs, approximately \$221,000.

[2025 RPT-499](#) TNC McMeen Acquisition Conservation Fund Grant Application Presentation

Attachments: [TNC McMeen Acquisition Conservation Fund Grant Application Presentation](#)

2. Engagement and Visitor Services Summer Recap

Lael Pascual gave an overview on engagement and visitor services activities from the summer of 2025.

[2025
RPT-496](#)

Summer 2025 Engagement & Visitor Services Presentation

Attachments: [Summer 2025 Engagement & Visitor Services Presentation](#)

3. Land and Water Resources Department 2026 Budget

Laura Hicklin gave an overview of the Land & Water Resources Department 2026 operating budget changes and the 2026 capital budget.

[2025
RPT-498](#)

LWRD 2026 Budget Presentation

Attachments: [LWRD 2026 Budget Presentation](#)

F. Reports to Committee

G. Future Meeting Items and Dates

1. Wednesday, November 26, 2025 (only if pressing business)
Heritage Center
3101 Lake Farm Rd, Madison
2. Wednesday, December 10, 2025
Heritage Center
3101 Lake Farm Rd, Madison
3. Draft 2026 Park Commission Meeting Schedule

[2025
RPT-464](#)

2026 Park Commission Meeting Schedule

Attachments: [2026 Park Commission Meeting Schedule](#)

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:

Aye: YGP Sanghvan

Ayes: 6 - Vice Chair BROUWER, Supervisor EICHER, 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, seconded by BANKS, that the Meeting exit out of closed session. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: YGP Sanghvan

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

L. Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned 7:10 PM.

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