



# 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?*

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Wednesday, May 27, 2026

5:30 PM

Hybrid Meeting: Attend in person at the  
Heritage Center Upper Level  
3101 Lake Farm Rd, Madison;  
attend virtually via Zoom

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#### A. Call To Order

Chair Thoresen called the Park Commission Meeting to order at 5:30 PM.  
Staff Present: Laura Hicklin, Sharene Smith, Joleen Stinson.  
Youth Governance Program Member Aleena Sanghvan Present.  
Others Present: Reid Bartholomew, Jan Daggett, Paul Dearlove, Heidi Habeger,  
Connie Hagen, Scott Haumerson, Stephanie Judge, Scott Reiersen, Fil Sanna,  
Kim Walz, Jeff Zoeller.

**Present:** 4 - ANALIESE EICHER, TOM THORESEN, KRISTIE GOFORTH and DON POSTLER

**Excused:** 3 - NANCY BOGUE, STEFANIE BROUWER and JASMINE BANKS

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

[2026](#) Minutes of the April 22, 2026 Park Commission  
[MIN-016](#)

**Attachments:** [2026 MIN-016 Park Commission Minutes 04-22-26](#)

A motion was made by POSTLER, seconded by GOFORTH, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote 4-0, YGP 1-0.

#### C. Referrals (Resolutions & Ordinance Amendments)

#### D. Presentations

##### 1. Conservation Fund Grant Application from Groundswell Conservancy for the Pine Quarry parcel in the Black Earth Creek Natural Resource Area

Heidi Habeger, Groundswell Conservancy Executive Director, presented a proposed land acquisition project for the Pine Quarry parcel in the Black Earth Creek Natural Resource Area. Groundswell Conservancy is requesting approximately \$995,400 from the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant program.

[2026](#) Groundswell Conservancy Conservation Fund Grant Application Presentation  
[RPT-103](#)

**Attachments:** [Groundswell PineQuarry DCCF 5-27-2026](#)

2. Conservation Fund Grant Application from The Prairie Enthusiasts for the Badgerland Foundation parcel in the Handrick Grasslands

Reid Bartholomew, The Prairie Enthusiasts Advancement Coordinator, presented a proposed land acquisition project for the for the County A Addition in the Handrick Grasslands. The Prairie Enthusiasts is requesting approximately \$161,000 from the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant program.

[2026](#) The Prairie Enthusiasts Conservation Fund Grant Application Presentation  
[RPT-104](#)

**Attachments:** [TPE CoA Addition DCCF 5-27-2026](#)

3. Conservation Fund Grant Application from Clean Lakes Alliance for the Prochnow parcel adjacent to Lake Kegonsa State Park

Jeff Zoeller, Preserve Lot 3 Sunnyside, presented a proposed land acquisition project for Prochnow parcel adjacent to Lake Kegonsa State Park. Preserve Lot 3 Sunnyside is partnering with the Clean Lakes Alliance, and together they are requesting approximately \$465,000 from the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant program.

[2026](#) Clean Lakes Alliance / Preserve Lot 3 Sunnyside Conservation Fund Grant  
[RPT-105](#) Application Presentation

**Attachments:** [CLA Lot3Sunnyside DCCF 5-27-2026](#)

4. Conservation Fund Grant Applications from the Driftless Area Land Conservancy for:  
a. Gansner Trust parcel in the Perry Primrose Bird Conservation Area  
b. Conservation Easement for the D Jelle parcel in the Perry Primrose Bird Conservation Area  
c. Sarko parcel in the Perry Primrose Bird Conservation Area

Stephanie Judge, Driftless Area Land Conservancy Conservation Director, presented two acquisition projects and one conservation easement project in Perry Primrose Bird Conservation Area. The Driftless Area Land Conservancy is requesting approximately \$2,066,000 from the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant program for these projects: Sarko acquisition \$578,000, Ganser acquisition \$1,068,000, Jelle easement \$420,000.

[2026](#) Driftless Area Land Conservancy Conservation Fund Grant Application  
[RPT-106](#) Presentation

**Attachments:** [DALC Sarko Jelle Ganser DCCF 5-27-2026](#)

**E. Items Requiring Committee Action**

1. Collaborative Friends Grant Awards and Madison Community Foundation Friends of Dane County Parks Endowment Distribution Request

Joleen Stinson presented a request for the Park Commission's approval of the 2026 Collaborative Friends Grant awards as presented and authorization to request a distribution from the Friends of Dane County Parks Endowment at the Madison Community Foundation to fund the grants.

[2026  
ACT-026](#)

Collaborative Friends Grant Awards and Madison Community Foundation Friends of Dane County Parks Endowment Distribution Request

**Attachments:** [2026 Distribution Request Memo to Park Commission for Friends Grants](#)

A motion was made by GOFORTH that the Action Item be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote 4-0, YGP 1-0.

**F. Reports to Committee**

- 1. Badger Prairie County Park Ribbon Cutting  
Tuesday, June 23, 2026 at 11 AM

**G. Future Meeting Items and Dates**

- 1. Wednesday, June 10, 2026  
Public Hearing for Proposed 2027 Park Fees  
Heritage Center  
3101 Lake Farm Rd, Madison
- 2. Wednesday, June 24, 2026  
Heritage Center Solar Shelter  
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 POSTLER that the Meeting enter into closed session. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** YGP Sanghvan

**Ayes:** 4 - Supervisor EICHER, Chair THORESEN, Second Vice Chair GOFORTH and Supervisor POSTLER

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 GOFORTH that the Meeting exit out of closed session. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye: YGP Sanghvan**

**Ayes:** 4 - Supervisor EICHER, Chair THORESEN, Second Vice Chair GOFORTH and Supervisor POSTLER

#### **L. Adjourn**

**A motion was made by GOFORTH that the Meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by a voice vote 4-0, YGP 1-0.**

Meeting adjourned 7:30 PM.

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