



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 9, 2025

5:30 PM

Stewart Lake County Park
3106 County Highway JG
Mt. Horeb, WI 53572

A. Call To Order

Chair Thoresen called the Park Commission Meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Staff Present: Sharene Smith, Joleen Stinson.

Others Present: Jack Saltes, Mary McDonough Sutter.

Present: 5 - NANCY BOGUE, STEFANIE BROUWER, ANALIESE EICHER, TOM THORESEN
and DON POSTLER

Excused: 1 - KRISTIE GOFORTH

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2025](#)
[MIN-159](#)

Minutes of the June 25, 2025 Park Commission Meeting

Attachments: [2025 MIN-159 Park Commission Minutes 6-25-2025](#)

A motion was made by BROUWER that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

C. Referrals (Resolutions & Ordinance Amendments)

D. Items Requiring Committee Action

1. Conservation Fund Grant Application from the American Farmland Trust for Buy, Protect, Sell Program, Makar Parcel

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by BOGUE, to direct staff to prepare the resolution to award a Dane County Conservation Fund Grant to American Farmland Trust. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

[2025](#)
[RPT-164](#)

American Farmland Trust Memo and Maps

Attachments: [American Farmland Trust Memo Requesting a Dane County Conservation Fund Grant](#)

E. Presentations**1. Friends of Stewart Park**

Mary McDonough Sutter and Jack Saltes gave an overview of volunteer efforts at Stewart Lake County Park. The small but dedicated Friends group remove invasive species, restoring oak woodlands, savannas and prairies, including the "goat prairie" a remnant on the steep hillside above the lake. A rain garden was installed near the beach to improve stormwater management and lake water quality. The park's bluebird trail has fledged over 1,000 bluebirds since the early 2000s.

2. History of Stewart Lake County Park, the First Dane County Park

Stewart Lake was a popular recreation destination even before becoming a County Park. In 1912, Mount Horeb residents formed the Lake Park Association to raise funds for land acquisition, road access, and dam construction. A ski jump was added in 1913 and hosted competitions for several years. After the original dam washed out in 1915, public use declined. Dane County acquired the land in 1935, making it the first County Park. The CCC built early park amenities. Historical photos were shared, and current features include a picnic shelter made from park-harvested timber, play equipment, hiking trails, an accessible fishing pier, and a beach.

[2025](#)
[RPT-186](#)

Stewart Lake County Park History Article, Mount Horeb Area Historical Society

Attachments: [Stewart Lake County Park Article from Mount Horeb Area Historical Society Article Spring 2021](#)

F. Reports to Committee**1. Dane County Parks' 90th Anniversary Celebration on Thursday, October 9 at Noon**

The Foundation for Dane County Parks is hosting a luncheon on October 9 at noon to celebrate the 90th anniversary of Dane County Parks. The event will include remarks from elected officials, staff presentations, a tour of the Heritage Center, a prairie hike, and lunch. Tickets should be purchased through the Foundation.

[2025](#)
[RPT-168](#)

Dane County Parks 90th Anniversary

Attachments: [Dane County Parks 90th Anniversary Event Flyer](#)

2. County Executive Melissa Agard's 25 for 25 Parks Challenge

County Executive Melissa Agard launched the "25 for 25 Parks Challenge" in June, inviting the public to join her in visiting all 25 Dane County Recreation Parks. The initiative celebrates the county's commitment to public spaces, wellness, and community.

G. Future Meeting Items and Dates

1. Wednesday, July 23, 2025 at 5:30 pm
Sugar River Wildlife Area Davidson Unit
1855 State Highway 69
Verona, WI
2. Wednesday, August 27 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. Closed Session

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

Ayes: 5 - BOGUE, Vice Chair BROUWER, Supervisor EICHER, Chair THORESEN 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 BOGUE, seconded by EICHER, that the Meeting exit out of closed session. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 - BOGUE, Vice Chair BROUWER, Supervisor EICHER, Chair THORESEN and Supervisor POSTLER

L. Adjourn

A motion was made by BROUWER that the Meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

Meeting adjourned 7:03 PM.

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