



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 8, 2026

5:30 PM

Scheidegger Forest
1828 Range Trail, Verona

A. Call To Order

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

Staff Present: Alex DeSmidt, Sharene Smith.

Chair Thoresen welcomed Jennifer Marquardt to her first Park Commission meeting.

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

Excused: 1 - JASMINE BANKS

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2026
MIN-122](#)

Minutes of the June 24, 2026 Park Commission

Attachments: [2026 MIN-122 Park Commission Minutes 06-24-26](#)

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

C. Referrals (Resolutions & Ordinance Amendments)

[2026
RES-071](#)

AUTHORIZING SALE OF EASEMENTS AT BABCOCK COUNTY PARK TO TOWN OF DUNN SANITARY DISTRICT NO. 3

Sponsors: MARREN and ENGELBERGER

Attachments: [2026 RES-071](#)
[2026 RES-071 FISCAL NOTE](#)
[2026 RES-071 MAP](#)

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.

[2026
RES-072](#)

AUTHORIZING SALE OF EASEMENTS AT BABCOCK COUNTY PARK TO
KEGONSA SANITARY DISTRICT

Sponsors: MARREN and ENGELBERGER

Attachments: [2026 RES-072](#)
[2026 RES-072 FISCAL NOTE](#)
[2026 RES-072 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.

D. Items Requiring Committee Action

E. Presentations

1. History of Scheidegger Forest

Chair Thoresen and Alex DeSmidt provided an overview of the history of Scheidegger Forest, including Walter Scheidegger's donation, its former use as the Dane County Sheriff's shooting range, the remediation of lead contamination, and its transition into a managed county forest. DeSmidt also explained the County Forest classification and its emphasis on sustainable forestry. The property now includes approximately one mile of hiking trails, a reservable shelter, a group campsite, and other rustic amenities that support passive outdoor recreation.

F. Reports to Committee

G. Future Meeting Items and Dates

1. Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Springfield Hill Natural Resource Area
8193 Ballweg Rd, Dane

Gathering Waters, Groundswell Conservancy, and the Ice Age Trail Alliance plan to host a tour of acquisition projects in the Cross Plains area, including the Pine Quarry and Swamplovers properties, following this meeting. County Board Supervisors will also be invited.

2. Wednesday, August 26, 2026

LaFollette County Park Shelter
2195 Williams Dr, Stoughton

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 POSTLER, that the Meeting enter into closed session. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

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 EICHER, seconded by BROUWER, that the Meeting exit out of closed session. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

L. Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned 6:25 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sharene Smith, pending Park Commission approval.