



# Milwaukee County

## Meeting Minutes Committee on Parks and Culture

*Chairperson: Supervisor Sheldon A. Wasserman*

*Vice Chairperson: Supervisor Steve F. Taylor*

*Supervisor Felesia A. Martin*

*Supervisor Priscilla E. Coggs-Jones*

*Supervisor Juan Miguel Martinez*

*Supervisor Jack Eckblad*

*Supervisor Anne O'Connor*

*Committee Coordinator: Kelsey A. Evans (414) 278-4013*

*Research and Policy Analyst: Sandy Saltzstein (414) 278-4362*

---

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

9:00 AM

Room 203-R and Microsoft Teams  
County Legislative Information Center

---

### HYBRID MEETING

This meeting was held in Room 203-R, and was live-streamed on the County Legislative Information Center: <https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Prior to the meeting being called to order, Chairman Wasserman removed Item 7, File No. 25-246, from today's agenda per Sections 1.13(c) and 1.13(d)(8), Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances. File No. 25-246 will be placed on the agenda for the Tuesday, May 6, 2025, meeting of the Committee on Parks and Culture.

### Call To Order

Roll Call at 9:01 a.m.

**Present** 6 - Taylor (17), Martin, Martinez, Eckblad, O'Connor and Wasserman

**Excused** 1 - Coggs-Jones

Supervisor Priscilla E. Coggs-Jones was not present at the time the roll was called, but appeared virtually shortly thereafter.

Supervisors Priscilla E. Coggs-Jones and Jack Eckblad appeared virtually for today's meeting.

**MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM - 1**

- 1      [25-53](#)      From the Director, Milwaukee Art Museum, providing an informational report regarding financial statements. **(Considered by the Committees on Parks and Culture; and Finance) (INFORMATIONAL ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE COMMITTEE)**

**Attachments:**      [25-53 FISCAL YEAR 2021 QUARTER 1 \(received 02/27/25\)](#)  
[25-53 FISCAL YEAR 2021 QUARTER 2 \(received 02/27/25\)](#)  
[25-53 FISCAL YEAR 2021 QUARTER 3 \(received 02/27/25\)](#)  
[25-53 FISCAL YEAR 2021 QUARTER 4 \(received 02/27/25\)](#)  
[25-53 FISCAL YEAR 2022 QUARTER 1 \(received 02/27/25\)](#)  
[25-53 FISCAL YEAR 2022 QUARTER 2 \(received 02/27/25\)](#)  
[25-53 FISCAL YEAR 2022 QUARTER 3 \(received 02/27/25\)](#)  
[25-53 FISCAL YEAR 2022 QUARTER 4 \(received 02/27/25\)](#)  
[25-53 FISCAL YEAR 2023 QUARTER 1 \(received 02/27/25\)](#)  
[25-53 FISCAL YEAR 2023 QUARTER 2 \(received 02/27/25\)](#)  
[25-53 FISCAL YEAR 2023 QUARTER 3 \(received 02/27/25\)](#)  
[25-53 FISCAL YEAR 2023 QUARTER 4 \(received 02/27/25\)](#)  
[25-53 FISCAL YEAR 2024 QUARTER 1 \(received 02/27/25\)](#)  
[25-53 FISCAL YEAR 2024 QUARTER 2 \(received 02/27/25\)](#)  
[25-53 FISCAL YEAR 2024 QUARTER 3 \(received 02/27/25\)](#)  
[25-53 FISCAL YEAR 2024 QUARTER 4 \(received 02/27/25\)](#)  
[25-53 FISCAL YEAR 2025 QUARTER 1 \(received 02/27/25\)](#)

There were no appearances for Item 1.

The following people appeared and spoke for information only regarding the April Report for this Reference File:

Alissa Karl, Chief Financial Officer, Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM)  
Scott Schwebel, Chief Experience Officer, MAM

The April Report for this Reference File was **DISCUSSED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN.**

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY ZOO - 1**

- 2      [24-1025](#)      Milwaukee County Zoo Strategic Plan and Master Plan Refresh.  
**(Considered by the Committees on Health Equity, Human Needs,  
and Strategic Planning; and Parks and Culture) (INFORMATIONAL  
ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE COMMITTEE)**

**Attachments:**      [24-1025 REPORT](#)  
                                 [24-1025 REVISED REPORT \(received 12/11/24\)](#)  
                                 [24-1025 STRATEGIC PLAN NARRATIVE](#)  
                                 [24-1025 POWERPOINT](#)  
                                 [24-1025 REVISED POWERPOINT \(received 04/07/25\)](#)

**APPEARANCE:**

Amos Morris, Director, Milwaukee County Zoo

Jodi Gibson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Zoological Society of Milwaukee, appeared and spoke for information only regarding this Informational Report.

This Informational Report was DISCUSSED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN.

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES /  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE - 1**

- 3      [25-277](#)      An informational report providing an update on the study to determine the feasibility of an MKE Hubs project at McGovern Park (**Considered by the Committees on Parks and Culture; and Health Equity, Human Needs, and Strategic Planning**) (INFORMATIONAL ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE COMMITTEE)

**Attachments:**      [25-277 REPORT](#)  
                                  [25-277 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SCREENSHARE \(04/08/25\)](#)  
                                  [25-277 PRESERVE OUR PARKS \(04/08/25\)](#)

**APPEARANCES:**

James "Jim" Tarantino, Deputy Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture  
Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services  
Celia Benton, Director, Economic Development, Department of Administrative Services

Ms. Benton provided an electronic presentation, which is attached to this file as "25-277 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SCREENSHARE (04/08/25)."

The following people appeared and spoke for information only regarding this Informational Report:

Patricia "Pat" Jursik, President and Board Member, Preserve Our Parks  
Laurie Muench, Board Member, Preserve Our Parks

Ms. Jursik distributed materials to Committee members, which are attached to this file as "25-277 PRESERVE OUR PARKS (04/08/25)."

This Informational Report was DISCUSSED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN.

**The Committee recessed from 10:54 a.m. to 11:07 a.m. Upon reconvening at 11:07 a.m., the roll was taken, and four members were present.**

**Roll Call at 11:07 a.m.**

**Present** 4 - Taylor (17), Martin, Coggs-Jones and Wasserman

**Excused** 3 - Martinez, Eckblad and O'Connor

**Supervisors Juan Miguel Martinez and Anne O'Connor were not present at the time the roll was called, but appeared shortly thereafter.**

**Supervisor Jack Eckblad was not present at the time the roll was called, but appeared virtually later in the meeting.**

**Supervisors Priscilla E. Coggs-Jones and Jack Eckblad appeared virtually for today's meeting.**

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE - 4**

- 4      [25-243](#)      From the Executive Director of Parks requesting authorization to enter into agricultural lease agreements and amendments for the benefit of Milwaukee County Land

**Attachments:**      [25-243 REPORT](#)  
                                  [25-243 RESOLUTION](#)  
                                  [25-243 FISCAL NOTE](#)  
                                  [25-243 HOLTERMAN SECOND AMENDED LEASE AGREEMENT](#)  
                                  [25-243 M.A. MAINUS FARM, LLC FIRST AMENDED LEASE AGREEMENT](#)  
                                  [25-243 NAPIENTEK LEASE AGREEMENT](#)  
                                  [25-243 HOLTERMAN AERIAL PARCELS MAP](#)  
                                  [25-243 M.A. MAINUS FARM, LLC AERIAL PARCELS MAP](#)  
                                  [25-243 NAPIENTEK AERIAL PARCEL MAP](#)  
                                  [25-243 AGRICULTURAL LAND LEASE POLICY](#)  
                                  [25-243 POWERPOINT](#)

**APPEARANCE:**

Robert "Rob" Senglaub, Contracts Manager, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture

Supervisors Martinez, Eckblad, and O'Connor were not present at the time the roll was called on this Action Report, but later requested unanimous consent to be recorded as voting with the majority. There being no objections by Committee members, it was so ordered by the Chairman.

A motion was made by Supervisor Taylor (17) that this Action Report be **RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION**. The motion **PREVAILED** by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Taylor (17), Martin, Coggs-Jones, Martinez, Eckblad, O'Connor and Wasserman

- 5      [25-245](#)      From the Executive Director of Parks requesting approval to rename a ball diamond in McCarty Park "David Christiansen Softball Diamond."

**Attachments:**      [25-245 REPORT](#)  
                                 [25-245 RESOLUTION](#)  
                                 [25-245 FISCAL NOTE](#)

**APPEARANCE:**

James "Jim" Tarantino, Deputy Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture

Supervisor Eckblad was not present at the time the roll was called on this Action Report, but later requested unanimous consent to be recorded as voting with the majority. There being no objections by Committee members, it was so ordered by the Chairman.

A motion was made by Supervisor Martin that this Action Report be **RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION**. The motion **PREVAILED** by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Taylor (17), Martin, Coggs-Jones, Martinez, Eckblad, O'Connor and Wasserman

- 6      [25-244](#)      **2025 Adopted Budget Amendment 06:** From the Executive Director of Parks providing an update on the Domes Reimagined plan.  
**(INFORMATIONAL ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE COMMITTEE)**

**Attachments:**      [25-244 REPORT](#)  
                                 [25-244 POWERPOINT \(04/08/25\)](#)

**APPEARANCE:**

James "Jim" Tarantino, Deputy Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture

Christa Beall Diefenbach, Executive Director, Milwaukee Domes Alliance, appeared and spoke for information only regarding this Informational Report.

Mr. Tarantino provided an electronic presentation, which is attached to this file as "25-244 POWERPOINT (04/08/25)."

This Informational Report was **DISCUSSED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN**.

- 7        [25-246](#)        From the Executive Director of Parks providing an update regarding Wehr Nature Center's 5 year site improvement plan **(INFORMATIONAL ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE COMMITTEE)**

Attachments:    [25-246 REPORT](#)  
                          [25-246 POWERPOINT](#)

Prior to the meeting being called to order, Chairman Wasserman removed Item 7, File No. 25-246, from today's agenda per Sections 1.13(c) and 1.13(d)(8), Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances. File No. 25-246 will be placed on the agenda for the Tuesday, May 6, 2025, meeting of the Committee on Parks and Culture.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES - 1**

- 8        [25-238](#)        An informational report on due diligence underway at 800 W. Wells Street, current location of the Milwaukee Public Museum **(INFORMATIONAL ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE COMMITTEE)** (Considered by the Committees on Parks and Culture; and Community, Environment, and Economic Development)

Attachments:    [25-238 REPORT](#)

**APPEARANCE:**  
Celia Benton, Director, Economic Development, Department of Administrative Services

This Informational Report was DISCUSSED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN.



**E-COMMENTS - 1**

- 9        [25-50](#)        eComments submitted to the Committee on Parks and Culture via the County Legislative Information Center (CLIC).

\*The Office of the County Clerk collects eComments submitted via CLIC, and appends these official public records to Reference File No. 25-50 at the conclusion of each meeting.

**Attachments:**        [25-50 eComments \(04/08/25\)](#)

There were no appearances for Item 9.

The April 8, 2025, record of eComments is appended to this file as "25-50 eComments (04/08/25)."

The April 8, 2025, record of eComments was DISCUSSED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN.

**The foregoing items were not considered in agenda order.**

**Length of Meeting: 9:01 a.m. to 12:01 p.m.**

**Adjourned,**

**Kelsey A. Evans  
Committee Coordinator  
Legislative Services, Office of the County Clerk  
Committee on Parks and Culture**

Deadline for the next meeting:

The next regular meeting for the Committee on Parks and Culture is Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Approval Tracking System review must be completed in Legistar on or before THURSDAY, April 17, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., for the May meeting cycle.