



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, September 2, 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>

Call To Order

Roll Call at 9:00 a.m.

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

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

REAPPOINTMENT - 1

1 [25-609](#) Reappointment of Amos Morris as Director of the Milwaukee County Zoo

Attachments: [25-609 APPOINTMENT LETTER](#)
 [25-609 BIOGRAPHY/RESUME](#)

APPEARANCES:

Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive
Amos Morris, Director, Milwaukee County Zoo, and Appointee

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE - 6

- 2 [25-550](#) From the Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks, requesting authorization to enter into a lease extension with the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee for their use of the Mary Ryan Building in Sherman Park.

Attachments: [25-550 REPORT](#)
 [25-550 RESOLUTION](#)
 [25-550 FISCAL NOTE](#)
 [25-550 EXTENSION OF LEASE & EXHIBITS](#)
 [25-550 POWERPOINT](#)

APPEARANCES:

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

Vanessa Koster, Director of Administration, DPRC

A motion was made by Supervisor Martinez 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

- 3 [25-555](#) From the Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks, requesting authorization to grant an 10-year Maintenance Covenant to the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) for tree plantings at Menomonee River Parkway. Authorization is also requested for the County Executive and County Clerk to execute all necessary documents for future plantings supported by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Grant.

Attachments: [25-555 REPORT](#)
 [25-555 RESOLUTION](#)
 [25-555 FISCAL NOTE](#)
 [25-555 MAINTENANCE COVENANT & EXHIBIT](#)
 [25-555 AERIAL MAP](#)
 [25-555 POWERPOINT](#)

APPEARANCES:

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

Vanessa Koster, Director of Administration, DPRC

A motion was made by Supervisor O'Connor 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

- 4 [25-554](#) From the Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks, requesting authorization to grant an easement to American Transmission Company (ATC) at Jackson Park to provide electric service relocation.

Attachments: [25-554 REPORT](#)
 [25-554 RESOLUTION](#)
 [25-554 FISCAL NOTE](#)
 [25-554 AERIAL MAP](#)
 [25-554 DRAFT EASEMENT & EXHIBIT A](#)
 [25-554 EASEMENT DESCRIPTION MAPS: EXHIBITS B & B1](#)
 [25-554 POWERPOINT](#)

APPEARANCES:

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

Vanessa Koster, Director of Administration, DPRC

A motion was made by Supervisor Martinez 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 [25-549](#) From the Executive Director of Park requesting authorization to adopt the 2025 Milwaukee County Parks Aquatics Study as an addendum to the Parks 2050 Long-Range Plan.

Attachments: [25-549 REPORT](#)
 [25-549 RESOLUTION](#)
 [25-549 FISCAL NOTE](#)
 [25-549 AQUATICS STUDY \(60 pages\)](#)
 [25-549 POWERPOINT](#)

APPEARANCES:

Guy Smith, Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture (DPRC)
Sarah Toomsen, Director of Planning, DPRC
Peter Bratt, Director of Operations and Skilled Trades, DPRC
Supervisor Patti Logsdon, District 9
Supervisor Sky Z. Capriolo, District 15

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

George Deines, Project Director, Counsilman-Hunsaker & Associates
Adrian Spencer, Deputy Director, Rooted & Rising - Washington Park

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

Aye: 6 - Taylor (17), Coggs-Jones, Martinez, Eckblad, O'Connor and Wasserman

Excused: 1 - Martin

- 6 [25-553](#) **2025 Adopted Budget Amendment 06:** From the Executive Director of Parks requesting authorization to enter into a Lease Agreement and a Development Agreement between Milwaukee County Parks and the Milwaukee Domes Alliance to support the revitalization of the Mitchell Park Domes. **(Referred to the Committees on Parks and Culture; and Finance)**

Attachments: [25-553 REPORT](#)
 [25-553 RESOLUTION](#)
 [25-553 FISCAL NOTE](#)
 [25-553 POWERPOINT](#)
 [25-553 LEASE AGREEMENT \(received 08/27/25\)](#)
 [25-553 DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT \(received 08/27/25\)](#)

APPEARANCES:

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

William "Bill" Davidson, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Office of Corporation Counsel (virtually)

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

Christa Beall Diefenbach, Executive Director, Milwaukee Domes Alliance

Jonathan Beck, Development Project Manager, Alexander Company

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

Aye: 6 - Taylor (17), Coggs-Jones, Martinez, Eckblad, O'Connor and Wasserman

Excused: 1 - Martin

The Committee recessed from 11:15 a.m. to 11:27 a.m. Upon reconvening at 11:27 a.m., the roll was taken and six members were present.

Roll Call at 11:27 a.m.

Present 6 - Taylor (17), Coggs-Jones, Martinez, Eckblad, O'Connor and Wasserman

Excused 1 - Martin

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

- 7 [25-552](#) From the Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks requesting approval of 2025 Fund for the Arts ("CAMPAC") allocations.

Attachments: [25-552 REPORT](#)
 [25-552 RESOLUTION](#)
 [25-552 FISCAL NOTE](#)
 [25-552 CAMPAC 2023-2025 AWARDS](#)

APPEARANCES:

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

Kelsey A. Evans, Committee Coordinator, Legislative Services, Office of the County Clerk

The following people appeared and spoke against this Action Report:

Chad Bauman, Ellen and Joe Checota Executive Director, Milwaukee Repertory Theater

Sarah Nelson, Imagine MKE

Christine Hojnacki, Executive Director, Imagine MKE

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

Aye: 4 - Coggs-Jones, Martinez, O'Connor and Wasserman

No: 2 - Taylor (17) and Eckblad

Excused: 1 - Martin

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES - 2**

- 8 [25-587](#) From the Economic Development Director, Department of Administrative Services, providing an update on the disposition of the Charles Allis Art Museum and Collection **(INFORMATIONAL ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE COMMITTEE)**

Attachments: [25-587 REPORT](#)
 [25-587 CAVT MUSEUMS, INC. LETTER](#)

APPEARANCE:

Erica Goblet, Project Manager, Economic Development, Department of Administrative Services

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

Marquayla Ellison, Chairperson, Board of Directors, Charles Allis Villa Terrace Museums (CAVT)

Dr. William Wood, Executive Director, CAVT

Barbara Velez, At-Large Member, Board of Directors, Villa Terrace Museum and Gardens (VTMG)

Douglas W. Rose, President, Board of Directors, VTMG

Thomas Frenn, Treasurer, Board of Directors, CAVT

A motion was made by Supervisor Eckblad that this Informational Report be **RECOMMENDED TO BE RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE**. The motion **PREVAILED** by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Taylor (17), Martinez, Eckblad, O'Connor and Wasserman

Excused: 2 - Martin and Coggs-Jones

- 9 [25-586](#) From the Economic Development Director, Department of Administrative Services, providing an informational report on the preservation of the Milwaukee County Collection and the disposition process for surplus property during the Milwaukee Public Museum transition.

(INFORMATIONAL ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE COMMITTEE)

Attachments: [25-586 REPORT](#)
 [25-586 PLANS FOR DISPOSITION](#)
 [25-586 POWERPOINT \(received 08/29/25\)](#)
 [25-586 E-MAIL TESTIMONY \(09/02/25\)](#)
 [25-586 WRITTEN TESTIMONY \(09/02/25\)](#)

APPEARANCES:

Celia Benton, Director, Economic Development (ED), Department of Administrative Services (DAS)
Erica Goblet, Project Manager, ED, DAS
Dr. Ellen Censky, President and Chief Executive Officer, Milwaukee Public Museum

The following people appeared and spoke against this Informational Report:

Cori Huston, PreserveMKE
David Riedel, PreserveMKE
Liz Riedel, PreserveMKE

The following people registered as speaking against this Informational Report, but did not appear before the Committee:

Scott Bush, Vice President, PreserveMKE
Brad Myers, PreserveMKE

Mr. Bush emailed written testimony to Committee members, which is attached to this file as "25-586 E-MAIL TESTIMONY (09/02/25)."

Mr. Myers distributed a document to Committee members, which is attached to this file as "25-586 WRITTEN TESTIMONY (09/02/25)."

This Informational Report was DISCUSSED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN.

E-COMMENTS - 1

- 10 [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 \(09/02/25\)](#)

There were no appearances for Item 10.

The September 2, 2025, record of eComments is attached to this file as "25-50 eComments (09/02/25)."

The September 2, 2025, record of eComments was DISCUSSED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN.

Length of Meeting: 9:00 a.m. to 1:54 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, December 2, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Approval Tracking System review must be completed in Legistar on or before Friday, November 14, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., for the December meeting cycle.