

NORTHSIDE NEWS

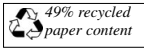
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From
THE EDITOR

JIM POWELL

Taking the 'community' of out community center?

On July 12, the Madison Park Commission removed three citizen members from the Warner Park Center Advisory Committee and reduced three other organizational representatives to "non-voting" status.

Representatives of the Northside Planning Council, North/Eastside Senior Coalition and Madison School Community Recreation lost their voting rights on the committee.

Special seats were created for a youth and neighborhood center representative. In addition, the name was changed to the "Citizens Guidance Committee."

The actual motion that the Commission passed did not include the two alders and Park Commissioner who currently serve on the committee. However, Parks staff contends that it was "implied" that they would remain on the committee.

By going against the unanimous recommendation of the Advisory Committee itself and Northside Aldermen Brian Benford and Paul Van Rooy, the Park Commission sent a clear message that it didn't want any trouble on its turf.

Why the dramatic change?

NPC led the efforts to build the center, surpassing its fundraising goal, getting the center through a citywide referendum and gaining community support for it over the six-year period of 1993-1999. And NESCO partnered with NPC to raise \$150,000 of that \$810,000 and offers senior services at the center (and is based there). MSCR provides quality youth and adult services and programming, and citizens have been involved with the center every step of the way since 1993.

But that was then and this is now, according to Park Commission President Bill Barker who sees NPC, MSCR and NESCO as "special inter-

est" groups that should not have any advisory role in the Center. At the June Park Commission meeting, Barker asked that these groups be specifically excluded from a revamped advisory committee. At the July meeting, he reluctantly allowed them ex officio status.

How has this come to pass?

Warner Park Center was a dream of the Northside community that became a reality in September 1999 when the facility opened. Six years of hard work to build support and fundraise for the Center, led by the NPC, aimed to make the Center the "Crossroads of the Community." The Northside Community worked with the city partners—Mayor, Alders, Office of Community Services Community Development Block Grant and Parks—to design, support, fundraise and provide oversight on the development of the center.

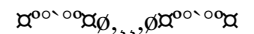
Community partners NESCO and MSCR joined the dream to ensure that quality programming for youth, adults and seniors would be available at the Center. And they have succeeded. In 2005 almost 58,000 participants enjoyed MSCR programs and events; and over 15,000 seniors participated in NESCO programs.

In addition, there were over 29,000 visits to the exercise room, and special events and rentals increased. Overall, the Center had more than 268,000 participants in 2005.

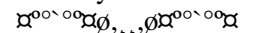
While MSCR, NESCO and the North/East Side Youth Basketball program provide most of the programming and MSCR offers childcare, City Parks maintains the exercise room, room rentals and cover maintenance of the facility. A unique, but overall, successful partnership.

There have been controversies at the Center, such as when facility manager Brad Weisinger attempted to close the childcare room in 2003 (this move was thwarted by the resulting public out-

See Warner Park, page 3



"You Don't Have To Move To Live In A Better Neighborhood — Just Get Involved In The One You Already Live In"



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Editor, Northside News, 2702 International Ln, Ste 203, Madison, WI 53704
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Doyle supports early childhood

Consistent support of early childhood has been a foundation of Governor Doyle's leadership. Faced with Wisconsin's largest deficit and the country's highest per capita deficit, Governor Doyle stood his ground to preserve quality child care support, including vetoing an increase in the parent co-pay for the Wisconsin Shares subsidy program and cuts to child care quality initiatives.

Unfortunately, the veto could not add increased funding, making it necessary to adjust rates as a preferred alternative to less desirable measures, including waiting lists or co-pay increases. Early childhood experts helped the Department of Workforce Development determine a rate-setting formula to ensure fairness across the state while maintaining universal access to low-income families.

Wisconsin pays one of the highest reimbursement rates in the nation, con-

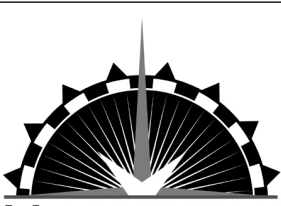
sistently exceeding inflation for the last several years and has avoided waiting lists for over ten years, steps few other states have taken to support child care quality.

Dane County benefits from Wisconsin's commitment, including receiving \$25 million for child care subsidies and \$2.2 million for quality child care initiatives in 2005.

This commitment will continue and we look forward to joining forces with Dane County United to form a stronger, more united voice to reward quality early education programs.

We know that given an opportunity to succeed, children will. It's a matter of our collective political "will" to make quality early education a priority. We look forward to adding the voices of Dane County United in support of our efforts. [See the June/July cover story, "Citizens ask for 'straight answers'"]

- Roberta Gassman, Secretary of the Wis. Dept. of Workforce Development



NORTHSIDE PLANNING COUNCIL

The mission of the Northside Planning Council is to improve the quality of life for all residents of the Northside community, by

* increasing citizen participation and voice in issues and decisions affecting the community through neighborhood organizing and advocacy; and

* building community by linking community organizations & residents.

Chairpersons Lisa Wiese, Northside Community Co-op	Mo Cleland, Brentwood Village (Alt.)	Veronica Lazo, Northside Timebank	DeAnna Sebranek, Whitetail Ridge (Alt.)
Dayna Dalton, Lakeview Lutheran	Carolyn Gantner, Cherokee Garden	Shelley Legried, Whitetail Ridge	Michael Shinnars, Brentwood Village
Vice Chairpersons Helen Marks Dicks, North/Eastside Senior Coalition	Kristin Gibbons (Alt.), Northside Timebank	Jill Jokela, East Area PTO Coalition	Karen Thompson, Northside Bus. Assn.
Jeff Shokler, Sheridan Triangle	Sue Gilberston, Cherokee Park (Alt.)	Leon Miller, Vera Court Neighborhood Center	Laura Vogel, Maple Bluff
Treasurer Mike Basford, Sherman	Eric Hands (Alt.), Vera Court Neighborhood Ctr	Jim Mohrbacher, Cherokee Park	Cyndi Wood, Nobel Park
Jon Becker, Lake View Hill	Ray Hellmer, Northside Communities of Faith	Nikki Moriarity, Lakeview Lutheran (Alt.)	<i>Neighborhoods in need of a NPC representative:</i> Karstens, Kennedy Heights, Lerdahl Park, Lindbergh, Northport Apts, Northridge Terrace Apts, Packer Townhouses, Sherman Village, Woodland Park Apts, Woodlands Apts.
Vernon Blackwell, At Large	Susan Hill, Mendota Hills	Fernando Cano Opsina, East Bluff	Call 661.0060 to enquire about revitalizing your own neighborhood association, or getting involved with NPC.
Patricia Brinkman, Cherokee Townhouses	Edith Hilliard, Berkley Oaks	Bob Paolino, Mendota Hills (Alt)	
Troy Brown, North Lake Mendota (Alternate)	Willy Holden, Berkley Oaks	Marge Pitts, Friends of Troy Gardens	
	Don Hovey, North Lake Mendota	Wendy Sauve, East Area PTO Coalition	

WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED

We are your community newspaper and we want you!

The Northside News is planned and written by volunteers. Join us at our planning meeting on August 14 at 6:30 pm, location TBA. Aspiring writers and photographers welcome. Article submission deadline is September 22. Contact Abha Thakkar at 661.0060 or Abha@NorthsideNews.org for more information or to give us your story suggestions.

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Reserve your ad by September 22 for our October/November issue, distributed about October 10. Ad copy, articles and all other information due September 22.