



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, December 19, 2011

4:30 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 103A, City-County Building.
Meets the 3rd Monday of the month.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 7 -

Ald. Anita Weier; Steven M. Fix; Patricia A. Lasky; Dan Melton; Lori O. Grant; Roger T. Bannerman and James P. Bennett

Excused: 2 -

Reginald N. Weide and Kathryn Vedder

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Melton, seconded by Bennett, to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jack Hurst, 1629 Randy Ln, Madison, was present to speak to the fireworks residue issue at Warner Park. He has been a Northside resident for many years and is concerned about what the possible environmental impacts the fireworks have on Warner lagoons. He is a member of the Yahara Fishing Club, which organizes a kids fishing day with over 400 participants. He is concerned about any health impacts polluted water/sediment might have. He spoke with someone involved in a winter fireworks display who indicated there was a lot of trash on the ice afterwards; this trash is what sinks into the lagoons after Rhythm & Booms each summer. He noted that the clean up crew following the show do not go into the water to collect trash. His opinion is that given the \$100,000 budget for the Warner Park Master Plan, water quality in the area should be tested before the plan is started. Following a question regarding possible funding assistance, he indicated that the Yahara Fishing Club may have some funding to help with the study.

1. [24466](#)

Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and Dane County to participate in and evaluate the effectiveness of using adaptive management as a means to meeting the Phosphorous (P) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) reductions mandated by the Rock River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

A motion was made by Melton, seconded by Lasky, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

Discussion included a brief presentation by Dave Taylor, MMSD, who is leading the effort to get a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by

DNR, Dane County, MMSD, the City of Madison, and any other municipality or sewer district that is affected by the Rock River TMDL that agrees to participate in a 3-year pilot adaptive management study. The concept of the pilot study is for those municipalities, sewerage districts, and other point sources with a stormwater discharge permit to collectively pool their resources and fund best management practices in the Yahara Watershed with the intention of reducing phosphorus loading. The best management practices (BMPs) will very likely be primarily agricultural, though some urban BMPs will also likely be installed, and if any municipality installs BMPs on their own, they will still receive "credit" for them even if they are participating in the pilot study.

Dave made it clear that he encourages each municipality or regulated group that he visits to continue to look at all options for meeting their TMDL requirements. For MMSD, the main choices are an adaptive management program or constructing a "brick and mortar" addition to the MMSD plant in order to reduce phosphorus in their effluent.

He recently met with USGS representatives who indicated their interest in partnering and providing cost sharing for monitoring. Dave assumes about \$400,000 in monitoring costs over the 3 year pilot program. He conservatively estimated the City of Madison's financial contribution to the pilot program to be \$136,000 each year for 3 years, starting in 2013. Dane County Land and Water Resources Department staff will act as a broker in the pilot program, as they have the most experience working with farmers to install agricultural practices, etc.

Commissioners asked what they were committing the city to if they agree to the resolution; the resolution is intended to indicate that the City agrees, in principle, to the language of the MOU, but does not hold them fiscally accountable. Discussions about funding would occur in 2012 for the 2013 budget.

2. [24468](#)

A Resolution Adopting the Downtown Plan as a Supplement to the City of Madison Comprehensive Plan.

Bill Fruhling, City Planning, was present to answer any further questions about the Downtown Plan. He reminded the commissioners that the intention of the plan is general concept, and that any specifics would be discussed in much greater detail when the city decides to move forward on any of the recommendations.

Commissioners indicated their continued concern about recommending any fill at Law Park on Lake Monona. Other concerns included the existing dog park near John Nolen/Broom, the lack of a natural resources inventory (other than trees), and the discussion of parking issues and how to encourage downtown visitors to use other methods of transportation. The question was raised as to whether there is an urban "environment" or if it is in fact human-engineered. Lasky noted that she was impressed with the planning process associated with creating the plan, and that there was thorough citizen input.

A motion was made by Lasky, seconded by Weier, to Return to Lead with the Following Recommendations to the PLAN COMMISSION, to approve the plan in its entirety with the following notes: (1) The recommendation to fill in any amount at Law Park goes against the mission of the COE and should not be

included, (2) There is concern about the proximity of a dog park to Lake Monona and any associated environmental impacts, (3) There should be a natural resources inventory included in the plan, (4) The environmental capacity for downtown parking and the effects on air quality should be included. The motion failed by the following vote:

- Excused: 2 -
Weide, Vedder
- Ayes: 2 -
Lasky, Weier
- Noes: 4 -
Fix, Melton, Bannerman, Bennett
- Abstentions: 1 -
Grant

A motion was made by Melton, seconded by Fix, to Return to Lead with the Following Recommendation(s) to the PLAN COMMISSION, to remove the first Recommendation as listed in the November 2011 Downtown Plan pertaining to filling along the Lake Monona shoreline at Law Park), and to include the other three notes indicated in the first motion (proximity of dog park to the lake and other associated environmental impacts, lack of natural resources inventory, suggestion to estimate environmental capacity for parking downtown and its effects on air quality). The motion passed by the following vote:

- Excused: 2 -
Weide and Vedder
- Ayes: 5 -
Ald. Weier; Fix; Melton; Bannerman and Bennett
- Noes: 1 -
Lasky
- Abstentions: 1 -
Grant

3. [18528](#) Discussion of Environmental Impacts of Fireworks Residue

Commissioners briefly discussed possible funding sources and in kind services to move the study ahead. Bennett agreed to work with Health and/or Engineering staff to modify the current study proposal, as written by Health staff. Mike Dailey, City Engineering, mentioned that Engineering, Health, and Mayor's Office staff will be meeting to discuss any modifications to the budget amendment and the status of the plan in early January.

Sue Josheff, DNR, was present and indicated there may be interest and available grants through DNR. Fix agreed to discuss further with Sue Josheff and Sue Graham (grant contact person at DNR).

4. [08477](#) REPORT FROM BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

None

5. [08478](#) REPORT FROM WATER UTILITY BOARD:

None

7. [14746](#)

REPORT FROM BOARD OF HEALTH FOR MADISON AND DANE COUNTY:

1. Public Health staff will be monitoring environmental impacts of a beet juice product that the Streets Dept. will be using in their winter road maintenance program.
2. The Board approved amending an ordinance to create a residential water service connection requirement and to update the well operation permit and well abandonment procedures.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Bannerman, seconded by Fix, to Adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other.