



# City of Madison

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
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## Meeting Minutes - Approved DOWNTOWN COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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Thursday, June 15, 2017

5:30 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
Room 108 (City-County Building)

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

**Present:** 10 - Michael E. Verveer; Ledell Zellers; Davy Mayer; Gregory O. Frank; Adam J. Plotkin; Ted Crabb; David Ahrens; Thomas E. Hirsch; Sandra J. Torkildson and Lori J. Henn

### APPROVAL OF APRIL 20, 2017 MINUTES

A motion was made by Hirsch, seconded by Frank, to Approve the April 20, 2017 Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

1. [45683](#) Report of Mall Maintenance and Special Events 2017

Chad Hughes briefed the Committee on Mall Maintenance activities for early summer. Capitol Square construction expected to wrap up soon, and the fountains and irrigation will be turned on for the remainder of the summer. Furniture and amenities will be reinstalled, and they are working with Olbrich Gardens to fill the planters on the Square with more colorful plantings. They have three seasonal workers on staff, and all of the evening and seasonal events are keeping them busy. Hughes also said that the banner refurbishment was completed earlier than expected. Hughes also walked the Committee through the proposed furniture replacement and purchasing schedule from the funds designated in the 2017 budget.

Crabb asked the status of the 700-800 block art project. Rebecca Cnare said that the contract has not yet been signed and that the project installation will likely be delayed until next spring. Cnare agreed to send the Committee an email update once she knows more about the status.

Verveer asked about an email from the BID about the trampled flowerbed at the Forum of Origin Sculpture at the Top of State Street. Hughes said that public urination has continued to be a problem, and activities remain an issue in the afternoon and evening when programming activities are not underway. Crabb asked Hughes to get in touch with engineering about the breakup of pavement on the 700-800 blocks of State Street.

2. Downtown Police Discussion

Lt. Brian Chaney Austin gave an update about downtown police activities. Officer Sosoka has been working with camera footage to try to get a handle on some of the more criminal behaviors at the top of State Street and elsewhere in the downtown. Captain Freedman's charge to focus on specific spots in the downtown seems to be having an effect, as data tells them that the volume of people and nuisance activities is down from this same point last year. The Lieutenant also said that activities with music really seem to have an effect on the area.

Verveer asked Cnare to look into amplification opportunities and expansion at the Top of State and get back to the Committee with ideas; including the possibilities of speakers at lan's or other businesses. The Lieutenant also talked about the difficulties with many policing requests at some of the running events downtown, specifically the Twilight Run and the half marathon that coincide with the Memorial Day weekend. The Lieutenant said that he will try to encourage organizers to combine events or they may not both get permits next year.

Crabb asked about the biggest challenges facing downtown. The Lieutenant said gang issues and gun violence is the city's biggest priority, and these issues take time away from downtown issues, although in some cases there are connections.

Torkildson mentioned that she and other business have experienced an uptick in some coordinated drug activity taking places in vacant business entryways and business bathrooms on State Street. The Lieutenant said he would look into the issue.

3. [47627](#)

Bicycle program expansion update and discussion

Morgan Ramaker, Bicycle Representative, came to update the committee on Bicycle expansion plans for the downtown. She mentioned the partnership with the City and the quarterly staff working group that meets to discuss expansion plans, permits, and issues that may arise. Ahrens asked about the Olbrich station; Ramaker replied that they would wait until the Biergarten is up and running before installing that station. Verveer thought that the expansion plans see to make sense. Mayer said that he was skeptical of the bike sharing program at first, but he has been really happy with how it seems to be working in the downtown and elsewhere. Mayer added that the temporary event stations, like at the Brat Fest and football games were a great idea and he hoped they might continue.

4. [32598](#)

State Street Report and Updates

Yang Tao, Traffic Engineering Division, described the proposal to allow bicycle movements legally on the 100 block of West Mifflin Street - in a similar fashion to what is allowed on the East Campus Mall and the 700-800 blocks of State Street. Changes would include an ordinance revision allowing bikes to ride on that stretch of street, a curb cut and small pavement marking at the cul-de-sac entrance to encourage bikes to ride up the middle. Tao said that people are now illegally riding bikes next to the buildings, and that directing them towards the middle will be a safer alternative. In addition, Traffic Engineering will look to enhance the visibility of the crosswalk markings at the intersections.

Crabb asked if any of the trees would be affected. Tao said that there is enough room for the path without harming the trees.

Hirsch said that he is not convinced that this will work due to all of the activities at the Top of State. Cnare said that this could be looked at as an experiment to see how it works, and the Traffic Engineering Division is proposing a light touch that could be reversed if it proved unsuccessful. However, Cnare added that the situation at the 700-800 blocks of State Street and the campus mall have proved to work very well.

Mayer said that good signage will be necessary to let bikers and pedestrians know what to expect in the area. Hirsch said that it might be very congested with all of the programming, vending and other activities that the City has been working to program the space and that this seems counterproductive to that work. Henn agreed that we have been working to create activity and asked if the bikers will disrupt that activity.

Frank asked if there were other referrals to this proposal. Tao said that he has talked with the Pedestrian, Bicycle and Motor Vehicle Committee and that they were supportive. Torkildson is concerned about the conflict at the traffic light with busses and timing of the lights. Tao said that they are also sensitive to that potential problem, and will monitor the traffic to see if more markings are needed to be clear about movements.

Hirsch asked that the Committee reevaluate the space in 6 months after it is installed to see how it works. There was consensus that the Committee would revisit the issue to see how the space is working.

5. [46294](#)

Accepting the report entitled, "Ensuring a Vibrant Downtown Retail Destination: A Retail Assessment and Strategy for Downtown Madison", directing staff to begin implementing key recommendations of the report, and repealing resolution RES-15-00206 (Legislative File # 36697)

**Cnare gave a brief overview of the committee referrals and results to date. Crabb asked about the resolution that is being repealed. Cnare said that it was the resolution authorizing the market study and setting up a longer planning process to follow the report. Cnare said that staff and elected officials were worried that a long planning process would take away from the momentum that has resulted from the report and that many of the priority recommendations, as described in the resolution will require a thorough implementation process that will allow for additional community discussion.**

**Hirsch noted that some of the recommendations are controversial and wanted to be sure that ideas like widening the sidewalks that affect such a wide range of transportation, economic development and other concerns will have due process and discussion. Cnare said that this report is just that - a report, and that Staff will work with committees, commissions and elected officials to work through potential implantation ideas as outlined in the resolution - and that each recommendation will get its own due process.**

**A motion was made by Crabb, seconded by Frank, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by voice vote/other.**

6. [33826](#)

Committee Member & Staff Updates

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Crabb, seconded by Frank, to Adjourn at 7:45 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote/other.**

Upcoming Meeting: July 20, 2017