



City of Madison

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

*Consider: Who benefits? Who is burdened?
Who does not have a voice at the table?
How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?*

Thursday, August 17, 2023

5:30 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 215 (Madison Municipal Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Michael E. Verveer; Juliana R. Bennett; Ryan J. Horton; Adam J. Plotkin;
Ted Crabb; Davy Mayer and Stephen Smith
Excused: 2 - MGR Govindarajan and Sandra J. Torkildson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Smith, seconded by Crabb, to Approve the July 20, 2023 Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. [61242](#) Public Comment
None.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

2. [75583](#) Report of Mall Concourse Maintenance and Special Events 2023

Mark Kiesow, Mall Concourse Maintenance, gave an update on recent events in the downtown. He informed the Commission on the status of Metro shelter removal work, the transition to using more electric powered equipment- including the replacement of a garbage truck with an electric packer. There was a brief discussion about the Bloomberg art grant. It was noted that the deadline had passed for this year, but that public art efforts are led by the Planning Division. Bill Fruhling, Planning Division, noted that the public art function is in the section he supervises and that staff do not currently have capacity to pursue new initiatives, due largely to the increased workload from the Percent for Art Ordinance. Kiesow stated that he has contacted B-Cycle about moving some stations around. He shared that his staff is evaluating poor soil conditions in some planters. He also stated that he is always talking to the Engineering Division, who keeps a project list that includes sidewalk

repairs.

3. [79380](#) Wisconsin history Center-Impacts on adjacent public space

George Austin, representing the Wisconsin History Center, gave an overview of the project, noting that it received initial approval from the Urban Design Commission the previous evening. Austin and Fruhling summarized discussions with City staff about the reconstruction of the public ways adjacent to the site. Fruhling stated that staff will work with the History Center, adjacent owners, and others to update the design of the spaces. Given the high use and necessary functions of these areas, he expects a “light touch” for the design so that they can be flexible in the way they are used. He noted that the Commission will serve as a venue and primary advisory body for the public space design.

The Commission discussed Mifflin Street and the importance of lighting (including the potential for building lighting to augment streetlights) and considering the design relationship to the library block and State Street. Ald. Verveer requested that staff look at the initial plans for Carroll Street and whether the trees shown in grates could be incorporated into the granite planters and whether those planters could be identical in size and shape.

4. [78895](#) Directing staff to take the steps necessary to conduct an experimental closure of the 400-600 blocks of State Street, including notification of directly impacted stakeholders. (District 2)

The Commission discussed the evaluation of the experiment and the need to consider elements such as the Business Improvement District survey, impacts of the State Street Campus Garage construction, and programming. Ald. Bennett asked staff for a report on the timeline, benchmarks, and the timing of regular updates to the Commission. Fruhling reported on the actions of other reviewing bodies and noted that the Downtown Coordinating Committee is the lead.

A motion was made by Crabb, seconded by Smith, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER the approval of the resolution to conduct an experimental closure of the 400-600 blocks of State Street. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Crabb, seconded by Horton, to Adjourn at 7:19 pm. The motion passed by voice vote/other.