



City of Madison
Meeting Minutes - Final
PUBLIC SAFETY REVIEW BOARD

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Tuesday, August 8, 2006

5:00 PM

Room LL110 MMB, 215 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd

ROLL CALL

Present: Ald. Paul E. Skidmore, Larry Pasha, Tyrone W. Bell, Michael S. Scott, Adam G. Lichtenheld and Amy R. Smith

Excused: Ald. Austin W. King and Terry E. Moen

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Carbine Executive Director of Central Madison Business District, spoke on behalf of her organization's support for measure 04264 and 04265 (Halloween). This will give input from the community of business and property owners. Will help to reduce the tax payer burden. Is an effort to bring back the positive aspects of the event, and to quell the negative - over-consumption of alcohol, violence and negative behaviors. As a former director of other major events, she noted that this is a time sensitive issue so we need to go ahead with these ordinances to meet the time frame. There is a diversity of views - not all businesses are for these changes (some licensed liquor establishments for example, make huge profits) but the Board supports the gated with entertainment plan. Some establishments feel that in many cases the problems are on the streets and not inside their controlled environment but the over-consumption of alcohol often fuels these problems which occur on the street. Not just bars stand to profit - many retail and restaurants opportunities are there, often with family activity beginning the Friday before the Saturday event. Bar time and the end of the event are the focus of a lot of the negative activity. The gated controlled atmosphere will give a definition to the event. Rosemary Lee encouraged the Board to do what the Police and other city officials need to help turn this event around. There are UW hockey games the Friday and Saturday nights of the Halloween party and a UW football game that Saturday so resources are going to stretched tight. So we need to give the City and Police Department all the support they need to help keep Madison safe. Erika Klang - president of her sorority on Langdon St. Supports these new proposals - they have had to hire security on Halloween and still had problems necessitating police calls. Don't want Halloween event moved to Langdon Street. Chris Hoffman - also a UW student, and a fraternity member - says are a lot of undergrads who support this plan once it is explained to them. Feels it is a step in the right direction. A web site ("Face Book(?)") which is a social notebook could be used along with other public service announcements to expound the value of the new plans. Some students are initially defensive but once it is explained, they understand and are okay with it.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Pasha, seconded by Smith - unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS**04162**

Creating Section 23.12 of the Madison General Ordinances to prohibit the operation of transient hotels & motels, amending Section 1.08(3)(a) of the Madison General Ordinances to establish bail amounts, and amending Section 1.08(4) of the Madison General Ordinances to establish enforcement authority for the section.

Sponsors: Tim Bruer

A motion was made by Smith, seconded by Bell, to Reconsider and refer to a future meeting Steve Brist, Assistant City Attorney, prepared this proposed ordinance for Ald Bruer due to problems in alder's area. Is a very limited ordinance - gives a tool to address problems that may occur - a small proposal to address small part of the problem - "additional arrow in the quill of alternatives." There have been lots of police calls to these "off the main drag" small older motels which are no longer frequently by tourists but are instead rented by the hour (sometimes a room twice in one day) to more undesirable persons whose actions may be things like drugs, prostitution, etc. The Police Department can provide address data later once specifications are known. Questions were asked about how the police would know this ordinance was being violated? How about a more comprehensive ordinance (Chula Vista CA model)? It was learned that the State of WI licenses these establishments so they have the pre-emptive power to control; thus the City is looking at behavioral actions as opposed to licensing restrictions. This would allow prosecution as a "nuisance." City Attorney's Office was given a copy of Chula Vista CA publication, "Disorder at Budget Motels", by Mike Scott and will check with them on some information-sharing. This is a chronic, not emergency, problem so that time can be allowed for police and Board to discuss and analysis the problem before action on the ordinance. The motion passed by the following vote:

Excused: King and Moen

Aye: Skidmore, Pasha, Bell, Scott, Lichtenheld and Smith

04263

Establishing a Glass-Free Zone for the State Street area on October 27, 2006, October 28, 2006 and October 29, 2006 from 9:30 pm. to 6:00 a.m.

Sponsors: David J. Cieslewicz, Michael E. Verveer and Austin W. King

A motion was made to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed by the following vote:

Excused: King and Moen

Aye: Skidmore, Pasha, Bell, Scott, Lichtenheld and Smith

04264

Authorizing the Police Department, Engineering Division and Parks Division to accept donated funds, to utilize a fencing and admission system, and to utilize those funds to offset costs associated with the 2006 Halloween event on State Street.

Sponsors: David J. Cieslewicz and Michael E. Verveer

A motion was made by Ald. Skidmore, seconded by Bell, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES The Mayor's coordinator on alcohol issues, Joel Plant addressed the Board. In looking for ways to improve the Halloween event, a plan has been devised for a gated event with entertainment. A total of 50,000 tickets will be sold. Various elements should help to make it a safer event: when a ticket holder is ready to enter, security staff can note anyone who may appear to be troublesome and deny entry; there is an expectation of a behavior change since participants will have purchased a ticket - gives some "ownership" of the event to them. Most tickets will be pre-sold and a high tech hand stamp used for entry. City is working with experienced firm(s) who make and sell ticketing for large events so valuable input such as where and when to sell tickets, how to avoid lines upon entry to event, placement of ticket trailers, lighting etc. is being obtained. Captain Schauf of Police, Chief Amesqua of Fire and Parks Department personnel also contributed information. It was asked how police would keep a person from readmittance to the event if earlier expelled? A permanent marker will be used to write "VOID" over entrance stamp on hand. Code enforcement officers from Fire will give estimates on number of persons safely in area buildings and officials have also determined that 50,000 persons is the limit for the event. Police will continue with their past system of "working the crowd" using both foot patrol and horses as needed. They reserve the right to adjust the plan as needed in order to ensure public safety. The fencing can easily and quickly be removed if necessary. For State Street residents, employers and employees a system for providing free tickets to the event has been devised so that they are able to access their living and/or working quarters. This is a true community collaborative effort. Strong public information will be put out not only locally but for those out-of-town and out-of-state persons who usually come, that say "if you don't have a ticket, don't come." A related problem is "displacement" - overflow parties springing up in other parts of the city. Police already consider Park St to Blair St to be the "Halloween zone." They are also aware of the displacement potential and are making plans. It is believed that past capacity estimates have been highly unscientific and over-inflated. The estimate of 40-60,000 is more in line with the reality of what the space could hold. By gating this event, the city can keep the participants at the safe - as proscribed by the Fire Department - number of 50,000, it can help to recoup some of the public money spend for this event, and will hopefully aid in the problem of mass over-consumption of alcohol with the resultant bad behavior. Captain Schauf noted that there will be police staffing combined with the fencing. Chief Amesqua thinks this is the best plan can have for now - the fencing makes it a new event so there will be new things happening, but Fire is comfortable with it. Schauf reminded the Board that public intoxication of itself is not illegal - it is one's behavior which dictates the action police will take. Plant noted that city is working out details of a plan of action should there be people in line to enter with ticket, but it is felt no more should be allowed in. Police do not feel that added information on the event being on surveillance camera will make any difference. Advance sale of tickets will be best, but weather, no shows and other unexpected things mean city has to be prepared to be flexible. Police Department is "cautiously optimistic" since there are many unknowns. Chief Wray said it was worth the risk of change to try this new approach. The motion passed by the following vote:

Excused: King, Scott and Moen
Aye: Skidmore, Pasha, Bell and Smith
No: Lichtenheld

04265

Amending the Police Department, Engineering Division, and Parks Division 2006 Operating Budgets by appropriating \$85,692 from the Contingent Reserve, and to utilize these funds for various expenses related to the Halloween event; and authorizing the receipt of revenues derived from admission fees and donations.

Sponsors: David J. Cieslewicz and Michael E. Verveer

A motion was made by Ald. Skidmore, seconded by Bell, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES The above discussion included this Resolution as well. The motion passed by the following vote:

Excused: King and Moen

Aye: Skidmore, Pasha, Bell, Scott and Smith

No: Lichtenheld

04271

Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign an amendment to the Intergovernmental Records Management System (RMS) Agreement with 16 Dane County police agencies, to add the Village of Cross Plains, Village of Brooklyn and City of Stoughton; and to create a procedure to allow other agencies to be added to the agreement in the future at the option of the Madison Police Chief.

Sponsors: Paul E. Skidmore

A motion was made by Ald. Skidmore, seconded by Smith, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES Lt. Joe Balles explained that this allows for the entrance into this Records Management System of additional entities in the future. It allows Chief to give approval. Several agencies have already joined forces and much good has come of it. Sun Prairie, Fitchburg and Middleton have their own system, and Dane County Sheriff's Department has their own, but this is a good start to inter-departmental sharing of information. The motion passed by the following vote:

Excused: King and Moen

Aye: Skidmore, Pasha, Bell, Scott, Lichtenheld and Smith

Capital Budgets: Police and Fire Departments

Assistant Chief Jim Keiken gave a presentation on Fire Department items which include, but are not limited to: West side fire station which would open the end of 2008; an increase in the ambulance fleet by one unit in 2007 and another unit in 2008, replace and update protective gear (3 year rotation plan to attain new standard), communications equipment to complete back up system, (some up to 14 years old and hard to find parts to repair), funds for design and engineering for 2010 east side station, etc. Assistant Chief Chuck Cole had previously distributed materials on Police Department capital budget. Item #6 was withdrawn since grant money will cover it; other items include tasers, remodeling of central police station, upgrade of digital fingerprint system, etc.

Fire Department Report: Ambulance Service Agreement (what were results of the study to finalize this agreement with surrounding jurisdictions?); Update on new medical director

Assistant Chief Kieken said the ALS paramedic service agreement is working very well - it "blurs" the boundaries for 17 Delta service codes and all Echo calls. All the jurisdiction's crews work together well, are highly trained and provide area citizens with the shortest response time. Priority Medical Dispatch also assists in getting the best care - the only problem is if information from the caller is not accurate. Efficiency has been improved and these systems are good things. Dr. Birnbaum, medical director for fire) will be retiring at the end of this year. The new director is Dr. Darrin Bean. Special thanks was given to the Fire Department for the ride along taken by Bell and to A/C Kieken for coming to meeting on his day off.

PSRB Discussion: future items of focus

Pasha told members that he will send them the list of future items for focus, and if members have additional items they wish to have added, please send them to him. He will then prepare an updated list.

Standing Committee Reports

There was insufficient time to address this item.

As a surprise thank you to PSRB members, Chief Wray presented each with one of the replica police badges from 1856 which officers are currently wearing in honor of the City's 150 year anniversary.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Skidmore, seconded by Smith, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.