



City of Madison

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Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Draft COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, August 19, 2013

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:** 5 -
Steven M. Fix; Patricia A. Lasky; Jennifer L. Giegerich; Timothy D. Baker
and James P. Bennett
- Absent:** 1 -
Patricia J. Gadow
- Excused:** 2 -
Sue Ellingson and Mike DePue

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

- [30771](#) Authorizing City staff to prepare a report on the feasibility of banning plastic shopping bags.

Public Comment
A. Dave Carrig, Madison, spoke in favor of pursuing a feasibility study and banning plastic bags. He noted other cities have banned plastic bags and mentioned the plastic "island" in the Pacific Ocean.
B. Rosemary Lee, Madison, spoke against pursuing a feasibility study and against banning plastic bags. She noted that paper bags break down in rain, and it isn't always convenient to carry cloth bags. She also indicated that it would be a financial burden to those who reuse plastic grocery bags for trash and the like.

Committee discussion included a suggestion that a review of all aspects (economic, social, environmental, etc) be included in the study.

A motion was made by Bennett, seconded by Giegerich, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

- 2. [31255](#) Demolition Permit Q&A with Building Inspection

George Hank, Building Inspection, was present to answer questions about the City's demolition permit. He indicated that contractors need to use common sense and not do certain types of demolition on windy days. If Building Inspection is alerted to any issues at a site, they will inspect and require that materials be picked up/controlled or demo needs to cease until less windy conditions. There was a question regarding dust control, which is generally controlled by spraying water on the site.

- 3. [30910](#) Fireworks - Post Event Discussion

Public Comment

A. Jim Carrier of Wild Warner, Madison, questioned the number of fireworks included in the report provided to COE by Madison Festivals Inc. He believes there were more shells than what was listed.

B. Rosemary Lee, Madison, urged the committee members not to vote against the fireworks event, suggesting that other impacts to the lakes are worse, as indicated by trash regularly found by scuba divers. Fireworks are a one day a year event, and a public event is safer than many private events.

Staff mentioned that City Parks and DNR have an agreed upon mitigation plan for the island, which includes removing the sand that was hauled in for the fireworks event and revegetating that area.

Committee members commented on the data report they received on the number of fireworks, wind conditions, and components. They would like more explanation from Madison Festivals, Inc, and asked that a representative attend the next meeting, if possible to discuss. Another report compiled by Public Health regarding implications of moving the event to Lake Monona, was handed out. Committee members will review and discuss at the next meeting.

- 4. [30550](#) Informational Discussion on Erosion Control Practices/Regulations

Postponed until September meeting

- 5. [08477](#) REPORT FROM BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

Owen Park drainage channel will require several permits; Royster site on Cottage Grove Rd will be undergoing redevelopment

- 6. [08478](#) REPORT FROM WATER UTILITY BOARD:

Not present

- 7. [08479](#) REPORT FROM SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

No meeting

- 8. [14746](#) REPORT FROM BOARD OF HEALTH FOR MADISON AND DANE COUNTY:

Ongoing EPA funded study at Olbrich Beach for a potential redesign (to minimize impairment issues); beach monitoring continues through the summer; Alum study at Monroe Street storm pond has started

9. [13375](#) STAFF REPORT

October meeting will be held on the 14th (not the 21st).

ADJOURNMENT