



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Approved COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, May 18, 2009

4:30 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Room 108
City-County Building.
Meets the 3rd Monday of the month.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 5 -

William C. Sonzogni; Jonathan H. Standridge; Lori O. Grant; Roger T. Bannerman and Keith W. Pierce

Excused: 2 -

Larry Palm and Reginald N. Weide

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. [14564](#) Amending Section 10.18(7)(b)2., creating Sec. 10.18(7)(f), and amending Sec. 1.08(3)(a) to ban the disposal of non-contaminated recyclable plastic bags.

George Dreckman, City Streets Recycling Coordinator, was present to discuss the proposed ordinance to ban clean plastic bags from the landfill. The City would provide a number of drop off sites for residents to take their plastic bags for recycling. This ordinance would continue to allow people to use plastic bags as trash liners and for other clean up tasks, and to throw those bags into the regular trash. Other options were considered, such as banning plastic bags, issuing a tax on bags, or requiring stores to take them back. These options were deemed less appealing due to economic ramifications of a ban, the current inability for the City to issue a tax on bags, and the fact that several types of bags (newspaper delivery, fruit/vegetable bags) would not be included in a take-back program. Dreckman would need to request funding for an education campaign, as there would be little to no enforcement possible with the ordinance.

Commissioners discussed that this is a good first step before considering a ban. One suggestion was to require stores to charge for bags but allow them to keep the extra income.

Alder Compton was present to voice her support of the ordinance and to advise the Commission of the background work she has done on the

implications of any of the aforementioned alternatives to this proposed ordinance. Dreckman also noted that a citywide mailing would be cost-prohibitive, but if he can procure the funds he will do a small mailing to city residents, advising them of this new ordinance.

A motion was made by Sonzogni, seconded by Bannerman, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE and to enthusiastically support this ordinance, as it will lead to better aesthetic conditions in the Madison area and will also lead to improvements in the health of the environment. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

2. 14745 Election of Officers

A motion was made by Sonzogni, seconded by Bannerman, to select Lori Grant as the new Chair and Keith Pierce as the Vice-Chair. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

REPORTS

3. [08478](#) REPORT FROM WATER UTILITY BOARD:

None

4. [08479](#) REPORT FROM SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

None

5. 14746 REPORT FROM BOARD OF HEALTH FOR MADISON AND DANE COUNTY:

None

6. [13375](#) STAFF REPORT

1. The next Med-Drop will be on June 6th at the Olin drop-off site and the Middleton High School parking lot.

2. Commissioner Rewey has stepped down from the COE, and Laura Hewitt will be taking his place, starting in June.

ADJOURNMENT

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