City of Madison
Meeting Minutes - Final

MADISON ELECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 12, 2006 4:30 PM 210 Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard, Room 103-A

Roll Call

Enis Ragland was present to represent the Mayor's Office.

Present: Paul R. Malischke, Sybil R. Better, Warren E. Onken, Marlena G. Deutsch and Maribeth Witzel-Behl

Absent: Emanuel Scarbrough and Valerie A. Brown

Excused: Bob Ohlsen

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Better, seconded by Onken, to Approve the Minutes of August 29, 2006. The motion passed by acclamation.

Discussion Items

1. **05157** Review of General Election

    Ms. Witzel-Behl reported that she estimated there were 25,000 Election Day Registrations in Madison on November 7. The City Clerk's Office has finished processing about 9,000 of those registration forms.

    Ms. Witzel-Behl said the election went well with a lot of interagency support, including an unprecedented level of support from the Mayor's Office. She said the problems were a bomb threat at East High School, complaints about lighting at Elver Park, and the need to rearrange the set-up at Fire Station #1.

2. **05158** Preparation for Spring Primary and Spring Election

    The April 3, 2007, Spring Election will take place during the UW-Madison Spring Break and the Madison Metropolitan School District Spring Break. The City Clerk's Office will work with the University of Wisconsin - Madison on an absentee drive for UW students.

3. **05156** Review of City Clerk office budget

    Committee members looked at the City Clerk's Office budget for 2007. The Clerk reported that the Mayor and Common Council approved the department's budget request.

Discussion Items

4.   **05141**   Establishment of additional polling places

Mr. Malischke suggested that the wards voting at Kennedy Elementary, Elvehjem Elementary, High Point Church, and Heritage Congregational Church be split into separate polling places. He said this should have been done three years ago, and he would like to see it take place in 2007.

Mr. Onken said the appropriate time to request this funding would be in the City Clerk's Office budget request for 2008.

Mr. Malischke said he would like this item placed on the January MEAC agenda.

5.   **05142**   Improving communication with poll workers

Mr. Malischke suggested that this item be placed on the next agenda. Ms. Deutch said this item would go hand in hand with the recruitment and training of poll workers. Ms. Deutch requested that Ms. Witzel-Behl provide committee members with a written description of how she communicates with poll workers.

6.   **05143**   Quality assurance at polling places on Election Day

This item was referred to a future agenda.

7.   **05144**   Polling places to be improved, moved, or established

Mr. Malischke distributed a spreadsheet that listed the number of registered voters assigned to each polling as of November 2, 2004.

8.   **05145**   Review of polling place efficiency

This item was referred to a future agenda.

9.   **05146**   Pollworker recruitment and training

This item was referred to a future agena.

10.   **05147**   Methods of public input to the committee

Mr. Malischke suggested that future meeting agendas say, "Members of the public are invited to submit oral or written comments related to the committee mission."

11.   **05148**   Elimination of Common Council meetings on nights of General Elections

Mr. Onken said there is no reason the Common Council couldn't shift its meetings from Election Days. He suggested that this be placed on the next MEAC agenda.

12.	05149	Review of returned address verification cards

This item was referred to a future agenda.

13.	05150	In-house tabulator repair

This item was referred to a future agenda.

14.	05151	Madison Measures program

This item was referred to a future agenda.

15.	05152	Positions of unpaid volunteer poll workers

Mr. Malischke suggested that volunteers be recruited to promote absentee balloting and to promote the AutoMark.

Mr. Onken said this discussion has occurred in the past, and that the City Attorney would need to verify whether anyone who is part of the official process needs to be paid. He suggested that, if the City Attorney says that they can volunteer, the private sector could be encouraged to participate in the election process.

Ms. Deutch told committee members that the United Way can list poll worker positions as volunteer opportunities on their website, in the Isthmus, and in their business volunteer network. She said the Madison Advertising Federation, local advertising agencies, and the UW School of Business might provide additional assistance. Ms. Deutch suggested that this be an agenda item for the January MEAC meeting.

16.	05153	Review of emergency preparedness

This item was referred to a future agenda.

17.	05154	Exterior signage directing people to polling places

This item was referred to a future agenda.

18.	05155	Annual Report to the Common Council, Mayor, and City Clerk

Mr. Onken suggested that, as the committee moves along, it mark off items for its annual report.

19.	04353	Suggestions for Future Agenda Items

Mr. Malischke suggested that the agenda include Confirmation of Next Meeting, Establishment of Additional Polling Places, Suggested Elimination of Common Council Meetings on Election Days, and Spring Election Preparations.

20.　　**05160**　　　　Confirmation of next MEAC meeting

The Madison Election Advisory Committee will meet in Room 103-A of the City-County Building from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. In 2007 those meeting dates will be January 9, February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13, and December 11. Sybil Better will be the chairperson for the January 9 meeting.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Better, seconded by Onken, to Adjourn at 5:52 p.m. The motion passed by acclamation.