



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved COMMON COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

4:30 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 108 (City-County Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 6 -

Ald. Lauren Cnare; Ald. Shiva Bidar-Sielaff; Ald. Sue Ellingson; Ald. Chris Schmidt; Ald. Larry Palm and Ald. Mark Clear

Excused: 2 -

Ald. Tim Bruer and Ald. Steve King

Others Present: City Attorney Michael May, Nicolas Zavos, Michael Waidelich, and Ald. Anita Weier

Ald. Lauren Cnare, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ald. Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, seconded by Ald. Larry Palm, to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2011 Common Council Organizational Committee meeting. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures and/or recusals from CCOC members present.

REFERRAL FROM COMMON CONCIL

[23641](#)

Amending Section 23.29(4) of the Madison General Ordinances to authorize the Mayor or the Superintendent of Streets to appoint the Weed Commissioners.

Sponsors: Paul R. Soglin

City Attorney Michael May explained that under current ordinance and state law (sec. 66.0517, Stats.), the Mayor appoints Weed Commissioners, which are subject to Council confirmation. In practice, City employees in the Streets Division are appointed as Weed Commissioners. This ordinance allows the Mayor to delegate the authority to appoint the Weed Commissioners to the Superintendent of Streets, and provides that appointments of the Weed Commissioners are not subject to Common Council confirmation.

A motion was made by Ald. Mark Clear, seconded by Ald. Larry Palm, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

DISCUSSIONS

24073

Legislative Update - Nicholas Zavos, Governmental Relations Officer

Nicholas Zavos, Governmental Relations Officer, was present for discussion on this item. Mr. Zavos noted that with the recalls the State Legislature has been fairly quiet. He stated that he has sent alders updates via email on the following: landlord pre-emption bill, building code pre-emption bill, water billing on the tax rolls, tax breaks for billboard industry, immigration bill, conviction record/employment bill and reimbursement to the city for police and fire services and Madison Metro services during the protests earlier this year.

Ald. Lauren Cnare asked what the difference was between what he does and the lobbyists through Martin Schreiber & Associates. Mr. Zavos noted that they are valued by the current administration for their connections to the Republicans.

24076

Discussion: Council Amendments to the City's Comprehensive Plan

Attachments: [Comprehensive Plan - City of Madison, Wisconsin.pdf](#)

Ald. Lauren Cnare explained that this was a discussion on how to review requests for amendments to the Comprehensive Plan.

Michael Waidelich was present for discussion on this item. He stated that this was a process that the city will go through periodically. There are two types of amendments: Track 1 amendments - consisting of past planning actions and Track 2 amendments - potential projects.

Mr. Waidelich stated that currently there were two active projects: University Research Park: Vetter Property Midtown Neighborhood and Verdian Homes/Vandewalle & Associations: Grandview Commons/Sprecher Neighborhood.

He noted the following "on hold" projects: Cherokee Park Inc/Independent Living Inc, Cherokee Park Area; CRANES, Cherokee Park Area; T. Wall Properties, High Crossing/Nelson Neighborhood; Former Mount Olive site; Jim Weber, Elderberry Neighborhood; Cross Country area (District 7); Johnson Bank project (Nesbitt Road area/Town of Verona).

He stated that these projects were essentially land use questions and were dependent upon a current neighborhood plans. He noted that planning staff was available to review amendments with alders. Also planning staff will include in their staff reports on the plan amendments, a note that if the amendment passes that it will be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan (requiring a separate vote and a separate public hearing).

Ald. Chris Schmidt noted that many of the members of the Plan Commission

were new to the process and that was why there was no filtering mechanism in place. He stated that the process of having Track 1 and Track 2 projects has problems. If an amendment needs to go forward it can take up to a year and there are no standards to make decisions currently (for example: PUD standards). He wanted to have direction either from the CCOC or the Council on how the Plan Commission should handle these amendments.

Ald. Cnare believed that the Plan Commission should develop the process/standards, prepare a report with recommendations (similar to the recent Economic Development Process Report), and bring it back to the public and the Council for input and review. Ald. Mark Clear noted that there was currently a bill in the legislature that would allow municipalities the option of repealing their Comprehensive Plan.

24074

Discussion:

A. Council memberships to and representation on National League of Cities (NLC), League of Wisconsin Municipalities (LWM) and Dane County Cities & Villages Association (DCCVA)

B. Common Council Travel Account

Lisa Veldran distributed informaton on the LWM, NLC and DCVCA organizations.

Discussion centered around travel costs. Ms. Veldran noted that she had recently estimated \$1800 for an alder to attend the NLC conference in Arizona. She also noted approximately \$9,000 had been budgeted in the past (1999 - Conference/Meeting = \$3,500 and Travel = \$5,500).

Ald. Larry Palm supported having a larger conference/travel account vs.hiring a full-time policy analyst. Ald. Mark Clear agreed, saying that he saw greaer value and benefit in alders educating themselves, participating in conferences and networking.

Ald. Shiva Bidar-Sielaff also saw the value of networking with other elected officials. She supported having separate conference/travel account for each alder (example: \$1,000/alder with parameters/guidelines). She didn't think it should be a choice between increasing the conference/travel account or the policy analyst.

Ald. Palm thought having a more robust conference/travel account would allow for more flexibilty (attending local conferences or national conferences). He also thought that the Council President travel account should have slightly more money to attend conferences (example: \$1,500). He also would like to see a report come back to CCOC from alders that attend a conference and share information that they gathered. Ald. Bidar-Sielaff thought there was also value in connecting/networking with other elected officials across the country.

Ald. Chris Schmidt suggested that Board of Estimate members draft a budget amendment reflecting this discussion. Ald. Cnare asked if the policy analyst conference attendance costs should also be included in the budget request. CCOC members agreed that money for this be included in any budget amendment.

Ald. Bidar-Sielaff thought an incremental approach should be used first. First, alders receive an increase for travel/conference costs and then the policy analyst need for travel/conference costs be reviewed later.

[24075](#)

Survey Monkey Instructions and Guidelines - Ald. Mark Clear/Ald. Larry Palm

Ald. Mark Clear distributed a draft of guidelines for alder use of Survey Monkey. He suggested the password be changed periodically.

Ald. Clear noted that there are templates in Survey Monkey and copies of past surveys that he has done that alders could look at for examples. He would also create folders in Survey Monkey for each alder.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

This item was not discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ald. Sue Ellingson, seconded by Ald. Larry Palm, to adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. Meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.