



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved DOWNTOWN COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 19, 2015

5:30 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 11 - Michael E. Verveer; Ledell Zellers; Davy Mayer; Gregory O. Frank; Mary C. Carbine; Ted Crabb; Thomas E. Hirsch; Matthew J. Covert; Sandra J. Torkildson; Austin E. McClendon and Adam J. Plotkin

APPROVAL OF February 19, 2015 MINUTES

A motion was made by Frank, seconded by Hirsch, to Approve the February 19, 2015 Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

1. [36258](#) Report of Mall Maintenance and Special Events 2015

Lisa Laschinger, Parks Division, gave a brief update about mall maintenance activities. She noted that the bus shelters have been washed, the snowflake lights are being removed, and the spring banners have been installed. She distributed information about 2015 sidewalk washing and a service area map with expansion areas effective September 1, 2015. Torkildson will work with the BID and the Parks Division to notify affected property and business owners, if it hasn't already been done.

2. [37428](#) Adopting the Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Downtown Public Restroom Committee

Sarah Lerner, Parks Division, summarized the background and stated that the resolution includes the following recommendations: review new development in the planning area for public restroom opportunities, extend the hours of the Lisa Link Peace Park Visitor Center, improve wayfinding, improve the aesthetics of the portable restroom on the City-County Building grounds, and to use funds in the 2015 budget and reauthorize if necessary.

There was discussion about whether an agency should be specified to take the lead in implementing the plan and prepare an annual report. Torkildson stated that it is important that maintenance costs not be the responsibility of the BID or Mall Maintenance since it is a citywide concern.

A motion was made by Frank, seconded by Zellers, to Return to Lead with the

Following Recommendation(s): that the resolution be amended to add an annual reporting mechanism by Aids. Palm and Verveer as the alders on the Ad-Hoc Committee, to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

3. [36539](#)

Philosophers Grove

Daniel L. Milsted registered neither in support nor opposition. He suggested removing all of the stones, relocating half the trees to replace those to be removed near the middle of State Street, and delaying the redesign for 4-6 years until the Historical Museum block redevelops. He also suggested reinstating the loitering ordinance, tree trimming, and looking at security camera placement.

Nina Berkani. She stated that there is often garbage and vomit in the bus shelter and surrounding area and suggested that the stones and trees be removed.

Anthony Rineer registered neither in support nor opposition. He stated that the bad behavior gets worse and more violent when it is warmer and believes that an increase police presence will help. He is concerned about the safety of his employees. He noted this is a meeting place where a lot of people gather and may only be there for 15 minutes. He suggested a no smoking designation for the space.

Sammy Baxter registered neither in support nor opposition. She stated that people cross the street to avoid the Philosophers' Grove crowd. She stated that the bus shelter is a problem and that people gather in front of the door to her business and it is hard for customers to get in. She stated that more police are needed.

The Committee discussed with Berkani, Rineer, and Baxter ideas for activating the space. Rineer stated he would be interested in having a sidewalk café on Miffiin. Berkani and Baxter opposed food carts in Philosophers' Grove. All thought that arts and crafts vendors could work well.

Fruhling gave an overview of the March 16 public meeting. He stated that there were about 30 attendees and the main themes seemed to be: the need for more lighting, questioning whether the physical changes will have the desired outcomes, that the proposed changes don't go far enough, and the need to continue focusing on activating the space.

The Committee discussed ordinances pertaining to parking and storage of bikes in bike racks and whether there needed to be ordinance changes to address concerns about trailers and the storage of belongings in the bike parking areas.

Crabb stated that they need to consider the entire block and look at ways to attract people to and through the space. He suggested minimizing the area for cars and widening the sidewalks to Fairchild Street. Hirsch stated that there are short-term actions they can take now and he doesn't want the long-term issues to stop them from acting now. He suggested moving forward with selectively removing stones through the middle of the space, increasing police presence, and continuing to develop a programming plan. He suggested some mid-term steps as well such as improving lighting, trimming trees, and looking at security camera placement. Carbine suggested that restricting car access without redesigning the space would not activate it. Plotkin believes that it would since the narrow sidewalks deter people from walking through it now. Frank stated that there is a need to fix and activate the space now. He stated that the BID will work with the Mayor to develop a programming plan and that improvements should be targeted for completion by June 1. Turkildson stated that there is no clear path through the space now and creating a clear path through the middle is a good first step.

In discussing implementation steps, Fruhling stated that next more detailed plans and a

construction estimate must be developed. He stated that those would need to be approved by the Board of Public Works and the Common Council. He stated that the Madison Arts Commission also needs to be included in the discussion. He suggested that it may be possible to have the changes implemented by June 1, but cautioned that there are a lot of details that need to be worked out and schedules that need to be coordinated and there are no guarantees.

Carbine stated that additional lighting is needed now, even if it is temporary. Verveer requested that the Traffic Engineering Division conduct a lighting analysis.

The Committee asked for an update at the next meeting and requested that Captain Gloede and Officer McLay attend.

A motion was made by Crabb, seconded by Frank, to endorse the plan for removing stones through the middle of the space and urge that it be implemented as soon as possible. The motion also included a request that the Planning Division continue to study the area to make it a more people friendly and safe environment and identify possible next steps to achieve that. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

4. [33826](#) Committee Member & Staff Updates

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Crabb, seconded by Hirsch, to Adjourn at 7:30 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote/other.