

# Memo

To: Mayor David J. Cieslewicz  
Madison Common Council

From: William W. Barker, Chair  
Central Park Design & Implementation Task Force

Date: January 16, 2009

Re: Request to Extend Work of Central Park Design & Implementation Task Force



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On June 3, 2008, the Common Council accepted the Preliminary Report of the Central Park Design and Implementation Task Force, dated May 14, 2008. In the Preliminary Report the Task Force mentioned accepting an offer from MG&E to fund an alternative design for Central Park that did not require rail relocation, as did the McCarthy Plan prepared for the Center for Resilient Cities (formerly the Urban Open Space Foundation).

In addition, the Task Force requested an extension to December 31, 2008, in order to work through the alternative design, to provide for additional public input, and to develop plans relating to the ownership/management of the Park, once a plan is ultimately adopted.

Since the Preliminary Report was accepted, the Task Force has met multiple times with the design consultants. Excellent progress has been made on the alternative design, but critical work remains; discussions with Wisconsin and Southern Railroad Company and the Office of the Commissioner of Railroads on a potential closing and a Park "Safety Plan," another public meeting, and finalizing a memorandum of understanding detailing the management structure.

To permit adequate time to work through these issues, I request the Task Force's work be extended through June 30, 2009.

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