



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved MADISON ELECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

4:30 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 5 -

Paul R. Malischke; Rosa J. Garner; Sybil R. Better; Marlena G. Deutsch
and Maribeth Witzel-Behl

Excused: 3 -

Marilyn E. Williams; Valerie A. Brown and Bob Ohlsen

Janet Piraino was present to represent the Mayor's Office.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Garner, seconded by Malischke, to Approve the Minutes
of October 22, 2008. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. [12843](#) Review of Absentee Voting Process for the Presidential Election.

Better said that candidates may be doing voters a disservice by encouraging
absentee voting.

Garner suggested more publicity about absentee voting, so people are aware
that ballots get rejected, and that there is some risk involved. She said it may
be helpful to provide the public with information about the cost and failure rate
of absentee ballots. She said it is good to think about absentee ballots in
terms of using city money wisely.

Garner said there were no lines at her polling place except for the first two

hours in the morning of November 4. She said the city may need to reallocate resources, so there is more help in the office and less help at the polls. Her biggest challenge as Chief Inspector was managing Quality Assurance Team and Observers throughout the day, she said.

Better said that the Chief Inspector at her polling place didn't know what to do with the Quality Assurance Team could handle the task other than Absentee Ballots.

Malischke recommended that everyone in the City Clerk's Office have a name tag to identify that they are authorized to work there. He also suggested that voters deposit their absentee ballot envelopes in a ballot box to provide a greater sense of security.

Better commented that the current deadline for requesting an absentee ballot by mail (the Thursday before the election) gives some voters false hope, especially if their ballot needs to be mailed out of state or out of the country.

Malischke suggested that the election debriefing be updated to indicate that all absentee ballots were mailed out in time.

2. [12844](#) Debriefing on the November 4, 2008, General Election.

Witzel-Behl distributed the attached report.

Malischke suggested that the Clerk's Office not do any licensing just prior to the November 2010 General Election. If Common Council meetings can be moved at election time, anything can be moved, he said.

Malischke said the supplemental poll list should have been split in two.

Malischke said he has asked the Governor to form a task force on universal voter registration.

Malischke also noted that Columbia County prints the name of applicable municipalities and wards at the bottom of each ballot.

3. [12845](#) Government Accountability Board Early Voting Proposal.

Malischke mentioned that absentee voting has two labor intensive parts: before the ballot is issued, and after the ballot has been returned. He said early voting would still be labor intensive up front, with two-hour lines and ramped up enthusiasm. Malischke suggested inviting a representative of the Government Accountability Board to the next meeting for further discussion.

4. [12846](#) 2009 Meeting Schedule.

The committee will meet on January 13, March 10, May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, October 13, November 10, and December 8, 2009.

5. [04353](#) Suggestions for future agenda items.

The committee will place the following items on the next agenda: recent actions of the Government Accountability Board, early voting, preparations for the Spring Election, voting in prisons, and a school alliance update.

6. [05160](#) Confirmation of next MEAC meeting.

The next meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.