



City of Madison
Meeting Minutes - Final
COMMON COUNCIL
ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

4:30 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 103A (City-County Building)

CALL TO ORDER

Ald. Austin King called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Present: Austin W. King, Paul E. Skidmore, Brenda K. Konkel, Lauren Cnare and Robbie Webber

Absent: Ald. Isadore Knox, Jr. and Tim Bruer

Excused: Paul J. Van Rooy

Others Attending: Ald. Zach Brandon, Enis Ragland (Mayoral Assistant), Michael May (City Attorney), Angela Bennett (Disability Rights), Carol Kiemel, Mary Bean, Lauren Azar, Paul Malischke, Alicia Sidman and Shirley Haidinger

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Common Council Organizational Committee minutes from April 4, 2006 meeting.

A motion was made by Konkel, seconded by Skidmore, to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by acclamation.

ITEMS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL

Ald. Paul Skidmore moved, seconded by Ald. Robbie Webber to table Agenda Item No. 2, Legislative File No. 02873 until the sponsor of the ordinance arrived. Motion was approved.

Present: Austin W. King, Paul E. Skidmore, Brenda K. Konkel, Lauren Cnare, Robbie Webber, Ald. Isadore Knox, Jr. and Tim Bruer

Excused: Paul J. Van Rooy

Ald. Isadore Knox arrived at 4:37 p.m. and Ald. Tim Bruer arrived at 4:38 p.m.

[03151](#)

Creating a non-partisan Madison Election Advisory Committee.

Sponsors: Brenda K. Konkel, Michael E. Verveer, Tim Gruber, Brian Benford and Austin W. King

A motion was made by Konkel, seconded by Webber, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER for June 6, 2006

Registrants:

Carol Kiemel, League of Women Voters
2769 Marshall Parkway, Madison
Neither Supported/Opposed - Spoke

See prepared statement attached to Legislative File No. 03151.

Ald. Brenda Konkel asked why the League of Women Voters thought that it was a benefit to the City to forego the creation of an Election Advisory Committee. Ms. Kiemel stated that it was a time issue in terms of having to create and appoint a committee and that Diane Hermann-Brown was very capable of addressing City election issues.

Ald. Lauren Cnare asked Ms. Kiemel when she thought the latest date the Council could form an Election Advisory Committee. Ms. Kiemel stated her own opinion would be that a committee would need to be formed by June.

Mary Bean
404 Tompkins Drive, Madison
Neither Supported/Opposed - Spoke

Ms. Bean stated that she also felt that Ms. Hermann-Brown was very knowledgeable and could address election issues that were brought to her attention.

Lauren Azar
1 S. Pinckney Street, #700, Madison
Supported - Spoke

Ms. Azar stated that in the election years 2000, 2002 and 2004 she organized volunteers to independently resolve election day issues. She note the following issues need to continue being worked on:

1. Recruiting of poll workers
2. Reconfiguring polling locations and ensuring that they are properly staffed
3. That there are enough ballots/registration cards at polls

Ald. Brenda Konkel asked Ms. Azar if she had shared her reports with the City Clerk. She indicated that she has verbally reported her finding to the Clerks office. Ms. Azar also indicated that she would serve on the Elections Advisory Committee if asked.

Paul Malischke
4825 Bayfield Terrace, Madison
Supported - Spoke

Mr. Malischke distributed a copy of a WSJ article, "Record City Turnout Marred by Long Delays" dated 11/9/00 (attached to Legislative File No. 03151) on people having to wait in long lines on election day, poll workers were recruited off the streets and the preparedness of the City Clerks office to address election day

problems. He also provided a copy of an email he sent to Sharon Christensen, dated 10/18/04 re: review of ballot numbers.

Mr. Malischke stated that an Election Advisory Committee would be able to review and address election issues and work with the Clerks office. He thought that Ms. Azar's "SWAT team" could be institutionalized and be a sort of quality control group. He also concurred with League of Women Voter's idea to have an Election Day Plan in place.

Alicia Sidman, Disability Rights Wisconsin
16 N. Carroll Street, Suite 400, Madison
Supported - Spoke

Ms. Sidman provided a memo to CCOC members and an updated Physical Accessibility Summary (organization name change - both documents are attached to the Legislative File No. 03151).

She noted that there is a difference between making a polling place location accessible and making a polling place barrier-free. A disabled person may be able to access the polling place but barriers exist that make it difficult for the person to actually vote. She also noted that this is an issue in every municipality and that an Election Day Plan is one way to address these issues.

Shirley Haidinger
949 E. Gorham Street
Supported - Did Not Speak

Enis Ragland and Angela Bennett joined CCOC members at this time. Enis Ragland distributed a document entitled, "Report to the CCOC: Challenges to City of Madison Election Processes, May 16, 2006" (attached to Legislative File No. 03151). Mr. Ragland indicated that the Mayor believed that the new City Clerk will be able to investigate election issues and address them promptly.

Ald. Austin King stated that he saw the major differences occur in the area of oversight: staff oversight versus citizen oversight. Mr. Ragland stated that the Mayor is open to discussing this issue at a future Leadership Meeting. Ald. King noted that the resolution to create the committee was before CCOC for action.

Ald. Lauren Cnare noted that this was an issue about how to solve election problems: administratively or through the assistance of an advisory committee. Mr. Ragland indicated that the new Clerk deserved the opportunity to take these issues on first and then the City could review the need for an advisory citizen committee. Ald. Cnare asked if Ms. Hermann-Brown had been asked her thoughts on creating an advisory committee. Ald. King indicated that during Board of Estimates deliberations Ms. Hermann-Brown responded that citizen input could be helpful and she would be willing to work with citizens on dealing with election problems.

Ald. Brenda Konkel supported the resolution. She noted that the public needed a venue to work on election issues. She felt that if a group were not formed there would be less focus on solving the election problems in the City.

Ald. Austin King noted that there is value in public review of election day problems. He indicated that he supported the creation of a citizen advisory

group.

Ald. Lauren Cnare felt that there was a loss of trust by residents in their democracy due to election day problems. She noted that with a new Clerk being hired and a new group being formed it provided a great opportunity to solve election problems. She did not see any downside in creating an advisory committee.

Ald. Isadore Knox indicated that he was hesitant to create another committee and would like to give the new Clerk a chance to look at the issues and make recommendations first before creating a committee. The motion passed by the following vote:

Excused: Van Rooy
Aye: King, Skidmore, Konkel, Cnare, Webber and Bruer
No: Knox, Jr.

Ald. Paul Skidmore moved, seconded by Ald. Tim Bruer, to take Legislative File No. 02873 off the table. Motion was approved.

[02873](#)

SUBSTITUTE - Amending Sections 2.29 and 2.40(6)(d) of the Madison General Ordinances to clarify that appearance forms may only be submitted by persons physically present at a meeting.

Sponsors: Zachariah Brandon, Larry Palm and Noel T. Radomski

A motion was made by Bruer, seconded by Skidmore, to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL WITH THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS - REPORT OF OFFICER Ald. Zach Brandon** noted that the substitute incorporated CCOC's concerns with people with disabilities to register at Council meetings. The ordinance itself further clarified that the registration forms are part of the official city record and should only reflect those people who actually attend the Council meeting.

Ald. Brenda Konkel asked if Council staff had any problems with putting out registration forms 15 minutes prior to the Council meeting. Lisa Veldran noted that staff are in the chambers at 6 p.m. and 30 minutes would be preferable. She also noted that if staff is in a CCOC meeting it could be a problem to have forms out 30 minutes beforehand. CCOC members agreed that if meetings went over 6 p.m. staff would be excused and the meeting recessed until staff returned.

The motion passed by acclamation.

[03448](#)

Amending Section 3.27(4)(b) of the Madison General Ordinances to establish rules for motions for reconsideration by boards, committees, and commissions.

Sponsors: Kenneth Golden

A motion was made by Bruer, seconded by Cnare, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER
City Attorney Michael May requested the following language be added to the ordinance:

After "Unless modified by its own rules or procedures..." add "or otherwise required by Madison General Ordinances or State Statutes". The motion passed by acclamation.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

03635

Discussion of proposed Planning & Development Department Reorganization - Requested by Ald. Ken Golden

A motion was made by Bruer, seconded by Webber, to Rerefer to the COMMON COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE. The motion passed by acclamation.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Bruer, seconded by Skidmore, to Adjourn Meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m. The motion passed by acclamation.