



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, December 12, 2011

4:30 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Engineering Conf. Room 118

This is a special meeting of the Committee on the Environment

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 8 -

Ald. Anita Weier; Steven M. Fix; Patricia A. Lasky; Dan Melton; Lori O. Grant; Roger T. Bannerman; James P. Bennett and Reginald N. Weide

Excused: 1 -

Kathryn Vedder

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Fix, seconded by Lasky, to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Powell, Madison, WI, present to answer questions on item #1.

Jim Carrier, Madison, WI, present to speak on item #1.

1. [18528](#)

Discussion of Environmental Impacts of Fireworks Residue

Lori Grant summarized the background of this issue, noting that the COE had made a request to the Mayor's Office for funding for a study that would establish baseline data for fireworks-related pollutants in the area of the Warner Park lagoons. Alder Weier proposed a budget amendment to include \$25,000 in the 2012 city budget for the study (Legislative File 24511). The budget amendment passed with the contingency that funds will only be made available if the City's Committee on the Environment obtains matching funds and it added that Public Health Madison Dane County was directed to manage the testing.

Commissioners asked if in-kind services would be adequate for a match; it was determined that the language states "matching funds", though an amendment could be proposed to include in-kind services. Jim Bennett indicated that he is trying to find a professor at the UW who would be interested in taking the lead on this project and provide oversight to a graduate student who could do the lab work.

Kurt Welke, DNR fisheries biologist, was also present to indicate his interest in determining the impacts of fireworks on the health of the lagoon vs the impacts caused by untreated urban stormwater. He noted that City Engineering has been taking measures to improve the stormwater runoff to the lagoons. He was asked if dredging the lagoons would be a possibility. Kurt noted that while

it is technically possible, the cost, permitting, and disposal issues currently outweigh any benefits, of which there would be few.

Public Health staff put together two options for a more robust study that would include air quality though did not include sediment analysis. Both options included pre- and post-sampling, and air quality monitoring included sampling during Rhythm & Booms via 5 participants wearing personal monitors. Costs for the two options were \$126,758 and \$67,858. Labor and equipment costs are not included. Public Health has a mission to respond to human health concerns, which is why air quality was added. Commission members indicated that their mission is environmental (not human) health, and perhaps Public Health is not the best department for managing the study. They were also concerned that the study was more encompassing than they had intended. They had only wanted to establish a baseline for the (possible fireworks-related) contaminants present in and near the lagoons. If the levels of contaminants are low, then the study could end there. If certain elements (Barium or Strontium) are unusually high, for example, they may then propose a follow up study after the fireworks. Commissioners also suggested that similar air quality studies have been done elsewhere and information could be obtained with a thorough literature review, but it is currently unknown what the other impacts to the local environment has been.

Public Health indicated that they could refine their proposed study outline and return to the January 23 COE meeting.

There is \$100,000 in the 2012 budget for a Warner Park master plan. There is currently no timeline for completing it, though it was indicated that Alder Rhodes-Conway would like to have it completed next year. It was also indicated that she did not have an interest in incorporating this study into the master plan. However, it was noted that the outcomes of this study may have an impact on the recommendations in the plan.

Commissioners discussed that they would like to see a couple of changes to the Public Health proposal as well as the language to the budget amendment to allow for in-kind services. [The motions are included in the following agenda item.]

2. [24683](#)

Decision and/or recommendation on pursuit of a study of the environmental impacts of fireworks residue at Warner Park

Steve Fix made a motion to request that Public Health staff revise their current proposal to remove the air quality component and include sediment analysis. Motion seconded by Alder Weier. Discussion included the suggestion that there be fewer samples to further reduce the overall cost. A friendly amendment was suggested by Bannerman to ask Public Health staff to help design a baseline study outline that is more consistent with Jim Bennett's original, committee-approved proposal [that did not include air quality but does include sediment analysis]. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

Steve Fix then made a second motion to ask that Alder Weier go back to the Common Council and request to amend the resolution to clarify that in-kind services may be used in place of or in addition to matching funds. Motion seconded by Lasky. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Fix, seconded by Bannerman, to Adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other.