



City of Madison

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

Monday, June 21, 2010

4:30 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 108, City-County Building.
Meets the 3rd Monday of the month.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 8 -

Larry Palm; William C. Sonzogni; Lori O. Grant; Roger T. Bannerman;
Reginald N. Weide; Keith W. Pierce; James P. Bennett and Dan Melton

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Pierce, seconded by Melton, to Approve the Minutes with an amendment to the motion made regarding item #3 (adding "and heavy metals" after "...for perchlorate". The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. [18915](#) Election of Officers

A motion was made by Melton, seconded by Weide, that Lori Grant continue as committee chair, and Keith Pierce continue as vice chair. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

2. [18537](#) Fireworks in Madison City Parks

In May, the COE requested that Health Department staff review existing literature for perchlorates and heavy metals and return with recommendations on whether the city should test soil, vegetation, and water in the Warner Park area. Jeffrey Lafferty, City County Public Health, was present to report that, based on his findings, the Health Department does not recommend further testing. Generally, other studies have shown that there is a spike immediately following fireworks displays, but levels return to baseline levels within days or a couple of weeks. There was indication that people with asthma and other respiratory conditions may have increased problems due to particulates associated with fireworks, but the infrequency of displays does not warrant a public health risk. However, Health Department staff agreed to post information on the potential risk on their website (and do a press release).

Commissioners discussed whether or not it would be beneficial to test soil/vegetation in Warner Park to establish a baseline, with the intention of resampling in 5 or so years to determine if there has been an increase in heavy

metals or perchlorates in the area. The Health Department has limited funds and very little experience in such sampling, and so would need to hire a contractor to do the work. Tommye Schneider, Director of Environmental Health Division, agreed that they could look in to possible grants if they are directed to do soil/vegetation sampling, though funding for such a program is not guaranteed.

A motion was made by Melton, seconded by Mr. Bennett, to Refer to the BOARD OF HEALTH FOR MADISON AND DANE COUNTY, to review and ask the Health Department to create a sampling plan in order to create a baseline of what heavy metals (found in fireworks) is in the soil/vegetation now at Warner Park. The motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 7 -

Larry Palm; William C. Sonzogni; Lori O. Grant; Roger T. Bannerman; Keith W. Pierce; James P. Bennett and Dan Melton

Noes: 1 -

Reginald N. Weide

3. [18846](#) Communication dated 6/15/10 - From Greg Galica & Ken Hallam regarding the need for the City to implement an automated waste cart/dumpster cleaning system, in order to protect citizen health, water and community cleanliness.

Commissioners heard public comment from Greg Galica, 4310 Mohawk Dr, Madison, who submitted a request to Common Council for the City to implement a garbage cart cleaning program, stating a public health concern. George Dreckman, Streets Department, indicated that the program would be expensive and that a private company had tried to initiate a similar program when the carts were first used, but were not successful. He suggested that he would include information on how to clean your garbage cart (not rinsing directly into a storm drain, but rather on grass) on the Street Department website as well as in the annually-updated Recyclopedia. He also noted that he has suggested bagging all "putrecibles" as to avoid leaving messes in the garbage cart in the first place.

A motion was made by Melton, seconded by Sonzogni, to Return to the Board of Public Workswith the recommendation to Place On File. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

REPORTS

4. [08477](#) REPORT FROM BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

There will be a study of the effectiveness of porous pavement in the Allied Drive area once it is installed in a new alley; monitoring would begin in 2011.

5. [08478](#) REPORT FROM WATER UTILITY BOARD:

The City will be looking at the east side of Madison as a whole to study the inter-relation of groundwater wells, as opposed to looking at each well individually, as has been done in the past.

6. [08479](#) REPORT FROM SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

The city is continuing to look into organics recycling, including a pilot study, though it will be a long-term process.

7. [13375](#) STAFF REPORT

Bill Sonzogni will be stepping down from the Board of Public Health, and consequently, also the COE.

ADJOURNMENT

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