



# City of Madison

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
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## Meeting Minutes - Approved DOWNTOWN COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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Thursday, January 22, 2015

5:30 PM

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

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

**Present:** 9 - Michael E. Verveer; Ledell Zellers; Davy Mayer; Gregory O. Frank; Mary C. Carbine; Matthew J. Covert; Sandra J. Torkildson; Austin E. McClendon and Adam J. Plotkin

**Excused:** 2 - Ted Crabb and Thomas E. Hirsch

### APPROVAL OF December 18, 2014 MINUTES

**A motion was made by Mayer, seconded by Plotkin, to Approve the December 18, 2014 Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.**

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

1. [36258](#) Report of Mall Maintenance and Special Events 2015

Lisa Laschinger, Parks Division, gave a brief update about mall maintenance activities. She noted that although there was little snow in December, the Mall Crew has been busy with other work, including learning about the new compacting trash containers in the 700-800 blocks of State Street. She stated that there has been a little more snow in January, and with the food carts and students returning to the 700-800 blocks of State Street, has provided the first real operations test of the newly-reconstructed space. She also noted the upcoming Winter Festival on February 14-15.

2. [35852](#) Accepting the South Capitol Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) District Planning Study Final Report, Executive Summary (Report of the South Capitol District Planning Committee) and the recommendations contained within.

David Trowbridge, Planning Division, stated that this study was funded through a federal TIGER grant and focused generally on the area bounded by Wilson Street, North Shore Drive, Lake Monona, and Blair Street. He shared a summary presentation of the study, noting that it focused on: 1) intermodal terminal evaluation; 2) lakeshore path improvements; 3) Lake Monona bridge connectivity; 4) gateway intersections along John Nolen Drive; and 5) Wilson Street concepts. He stated that the resolution accepts the report, but does not recommend any of the options.

Covert asked about objections to the spiral ramp west of Monona Terrace since it seems similar to the one suggested east of Monona Terrace. Trowbridge stated the objections were more about the part of the bridge that touched Monona Terrace.

Torkildson asked about bicyclists using the spiral ramps and about their use if there is an easier alternative. Trowbridge said the hope is that people will use these ramps and remove some of the pedestrian/bicycle traffic from Wilson Street and the intersections.

Verveer asked about the status of the Mayor's request to have the Engineering Division look at the Downtown Design Professionals' Law Park concept. The status is unknown. Mayer wondered whether federal money would be available for the tunnel. Covert added that there could possibly be some TIGER funds available, but there are limited opportunities remaining. Trowbridge noted that there could be other opportunities in the future.

Covert asked about Metro's preferences. Trowbridge stated that they prefer the existing situation. Verveer added that they did not support the Wilson Street cul-de-sac idea.

Mayer stated that he was on the committee and the exercise seemed to conclude that the existing Blair Street/John Nolen Drive intersection configuration works the best. Verveer noted that the First Settlement neighborhood prefers the existing design. Torkildson stated that the triangular islands are a problem for bikers and that the lights are not timed to allow a pedestrian or bicyclist to get through the whole intersection travelling north and south. Verveer suggested that the Traffic Engineering Division explore some short-term fixes.

**A motion was made by Covert, seconded by Carbine, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE/MOTOR VEHICLE COMMISSION. The motion passed by voice vote/other.**

3. [36539](#)

### Philosophers Grove

Bill Fruhling, Planning Division, reported that staff met again with Ken Saiki and Jill Sebastian, the designers of Philosophers' Grove to talk through some potential ideas given the DCC's direction from the December meeting. He noted a few items discussed included skewing the stones to one side of space, replacing on-street parking with bike parking, and the placement of the Downtown Ambassadors' booth. He stated staff still expects to present some design alternatives at the February meeting.

Fruhling stated that he talked to Mike Slavish about the status of plans for property the Hovde Group owns on the block. He reported that discussions with the State to locate museums on the site are on-going and that he expects to know something more definitive by late spring. If not, the owners may look at going a different direction with the property. He stated that Slavish speculated that the best case scenario would have a new building open in about four years.

Fruhling stated that there are a total of 43 stones and 17 trees in the Philosophers' Grove.

Zellers noted that this effort began because of behavior issues and cautioned to also consider the Carroll Street segment next to the Philosophers' Grove.

Frank emphasized the importance of activity and programming and reiterated that the BID is willing to take the lead if there is adequate money and resources. Carbine stated the importance of activating the space(s) at a consistent level.

Verveer asked about next steps. Fruhling stated that, per the DCC's December meeting, staff plans to have some preliminary concepts at the February meeting. Once the DCC feels comfortable with the concepts, a second public meeting would be scheduled (possibly in March) to receive input on the concepts. He stated the plan is to then take that input and

develop a preferred alternative, and once the DCC is comfortable with that, a third public meeting would be held (possibly in May) to help fine tune the preferred concept.

4. [36697](#)      SUBSTITUTE-Directing the Department of Planning and Community and Economic Development to conduct a one or two year collaborative effort to implement many of the recommendations in the 2012 adopted Downtown Plan, and to take an expanded and more detailed look at a number of issues associated with State Street, the Capitol Square, and adjacent areas
- Fruhling distributed a copy of the resolution and the proposed timeline for review by the referral bodies, noting that the DCC is the lead committee and will hopefully be able to review it at the February meeting. Verveer stated that no decision has been made about whether a special committee will be appointed to oversee the project, and noted that the UW would like to be represented.

Fruhling also passed out a report listing all of the ground floor uses in the 100-600 blocks of State Street for the years 1989, 1994, and 2014. There was some question about the listings for 449 State Street. Fruhling stated that he would look into that data and invited Committee members to let him know if they have other questions.

5.      Reminder that all members of City of Madison committees, commissions, or boards must file a Statement of Interest form with the City Clerk's Office by January 6, 2015

Fruhling stated that he understands all DCC members have turned in their forms.

6. [33826](#)      Committee Member & Staff Updates

Mayer stated that a Mayoral candidate forum is being sponsored by Capital Neighborhoods Inc. and Downtown Madison Inc. on January 29.

Torkildson stated that A Room of One's Own bookstore will be celebrating its 40th anniversary.

## ADJOURNMENT

**A motion was made by Verveer, seconded by Zellers, to Adjourn at 7:07 p.m.  
The motion passed by voice vote/other.**