



City of Madison

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

Monday, May 17, 2010

4:30 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 103A, City-County Building.
Meets the 3rd Monday of the month.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 7 -

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

Excused: 1 -

Roger T. Bannerman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Sonzogni, seconded by Mr. Bennett, to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

1. [18442](#)

Radon in Basements

John Hausbeck, Madison Dane County Public Health Department, was present to give a summary of the work the Health Dept. does with radon testing and public education. A study was done several years ago in Dane County that showed approximately 20% of homes have radon over what is considered a safe level. Radon test kits are available through the Health Dept. for a nominal fee, or will be given out free of charge in some cases. The fix for high radon levels is fairly easy, and consists of running a pipe from under the basement slab to the top of the roof with a fan to pull air out. Generally basements have the highest radon level, and the levels drop significantly as one moves up through a house.

2. [18465](#)

Discussion of Erosion Control at Vilas Park Bikepath Project

Greg Fries, City Engineering, was present to give a summary of the events surrounding a reported problem with erosion control associated with the Vilas Park bikepath project. There were no violations made in the field with regards to erosion control or inspections. Due to some administrative-type errors, there was a two week window when the project was not posted online for the inspector to log his inspections, though he was recording his site visits on paper. Following a report of a sediment plume entering Lake Wingra from the construction site, City and Dane County erosion control inspectors visited the site and found no violations. Greg mentioned that the site is primarily clay, which is very difficult to capture without using extreme (and expensive) practices, which is not required under state or county regulations.

In light of the administrative errors, some internal changes were made, specifically during the pre-construction meeting. There is now a checklist that must be completed during each pre-construction meeting, which includes

information on the erosion control and stormwater management plan.

3. [18537](#) Fireworks in Madison City Parks

The issue of contaminants in some fireworks was brought to the Parks Commission by concerned citizens. John Hausbeck, Health Department, was present to give information from a Health Department study at Warner Park regarding the environmental impacts to water quality from fireworks. The results of the study were that there was no impact on water quality, though perchlorate was not tested, which is one of the contaminants of concern. John agreed to review the current literature and return to the COE in June with any new information on known impacts by fireworks on soil, vegetation, and water. Jim Bennett agreed to assist him.

A motion was made by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Melton, to request Health Department staff to search existing literature for perchlorate and heavy metals and return to the June COE meeting with recommendations on whether we should test soil, vegetation, and water in the Warner Park area before and after Rhythm and Booms. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

REPORTS

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

None

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

None

7. [14746](#) REPORT FROM BOARD OF HEALTH FOR MADISON AND DANE COUNTY:

None

8. [13375](#) STAFF REPORT

We need to have officer elections next month.

ADJOURNMENT

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