



# City of Madison

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

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Thursday, April 17, 2014

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; Ted Crabb; Thomas E. Hirsch; Matthew J. Covert and Sandra J. Torkildson

### APPROVAL OF March 20, 2014 MINUTES

A motion was made by Hirsch, seconded by Frank, to Approve the Minutes of March 20, 2014 with one correction:

In the second paragraph of item #1, the sentence should read "There was a question asked about the quality and color of the mulch that is produced by the Parks Division."

The motion passed by voice vote/other.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

### DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals.

#### 1. [32474](#) Report of Mall Maintenance, Special Events 2014

Charlie Romines, Parks Division, reported that all maintenance activities are going well. The sidewalk cleaning program seems to be working well, and once it warms enough to have the water turned on, it will greatly speed up their process. Pruning and plantings should start next week, and dark brown mulch has been ordered. The Final Four celebration in the 500-600 blocks of State Street appears to have done some damage to the plants that staff was hoping save, so they will have to keep an eye on those plantings to see if they are still able to grow. Carbine asked about sand and gravel cleanup. Romines said that they will be continually running the street sweepers to clean up all of the extra sand that was used during the salt shortage this winter. Covert asked about the new service area. Romines said that they have been starting service in the new areas, and that they will continue to assess what the needs are in those areas.

#### 2. Update on downtown safety issues from Madison Police

This item was referred to the next meeting as a member of the Police could not attend the meeting.

3. Downtown Walkability Study Presentation by University of Wisconsin Students

Matt Covert introduced the Badger Volunteers that he has been working with through the Morgridge Center for Public service at the 1000 Friends of Wisconsin. He noted that they are all volunteers, and received no credit for this work. He has been working with them on cataloging walkability issues throughout downtown Madison. There are two different groups that walked around the city throughout the winter and geo-coded different issues on a Google map. With additional work and high level software, the data points on the maps could be analyzed further to help different city departments solve issues throughout the downtown.

Mikayla Hall, 1815 University Ave, presented a Google map that highlighted different issues, both positive and negative that affect walkability throughout the Downtown. She explained how different categories have different colors and that throughout her work she found that the biggest problem facing walkability in the downtown was the lack of pedestrian crossing signals at intersections. She noted that there are a lot of really walkable streets as well.

Tom Hirsch asked if there was a methodology used to collect their data points, and how the data could be analyzed further. Covert said that he based the categories on ones used by Arthur Ross, the City's Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Coordinator, and that once they are able to import the data into a professional version of Google Maps, that more analysis should be possible.

Mayer hoped that this kind of information could be used by city staff. Crabb added that he hopes that this kind of work could continue at 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, and could be available for others to look at.

Kate Bednarke, 640 Elm Drive, Justin Stadelman, 650 Prisk Street, and Maxwell Albrecht, 1220 Mound Street all presented three different virtual tours of walkability in the Downtown using Google Street View. The first tour viewed the areas around West Wilson and South Broom Streets. They noted the design of a corner sidewalk crossing ramp that wasn't very pedestrian friendly. There was discussion about the different types of crossing ramps; including accessibility and other design issues. Alder Zellers asked Rebecca Cnare, planning staff, to follow up with Traffic Engineering Staff on which type of ramp is their preferred design. (Cnare later learned that the using two separate perpendicular ramps is the city standard, unlike the one discussed at this intersection.)

The second tour looked at the area of John Nolen Drive and Williamson Street. It was generally agreed that this was a very difficult intersection for pedestrians. They also noted that some small setbacks for buildings allow a little relief for pedestrians, especially when there is not a tree terrace between the sidewalk and the street. Large setbacks however, did not add to the pedestrian experience.

The third tour went down State Street, and while this street was one of the most walkable in the whole city, with wide sidewalk, and lots of amenities, there are still issues with visibility at the Dayton street intersection. They noted a very short walk signal near the Triangle Market. They also noted that Henry Street, both north and south of State Street, were two of the more sad streets in the area. The side of Henry behind the Overture Building was especially sad, and had no activities at all, and hardly any pedestrians. They speculated that the back uses and non-engaging architecture of the courthouse and telephone building added to this lack of pedestrians. There was a suggestion that perhaps a sign to direct people to the Central Library or other nearby uses might make this street more pedestrian friendly.

Alder Verveer noted that he has been working with City Staff to explore the idea of a "Parklet" café in the angled parking stalls for the AJ Bombers restaurant on Henry Street, just north of State Street. Verveer noted that cities around the world have temporarily used parking stalls to create amenities for retail districts, called Parklets. Verveer believes that the Parklet for AJ Bombers could become a good pilot project for the city to explore. Frank noted that one day a year he has seen several of these parklets around the downtown. Verveer said that this would take that idea further and allow for use over an entire summer. Covert though that the topic of Parklets fits right in with the core mission of the DCC. Crabb asked Cnare to put Parklets on the upcoming agenda for further discussion by the whole Committee.

Verveer asked the students if they found many cracked sidewalks or tripping hazards, as he has been working with city staff to try to fix all of them. They said that they found very few, perhaps less than ten. Hirsch noted the idea of adding more crossing signals or yield signs. Crabb noted that the city has been adding more yield signs during projects in the city.

Verveer and other committee members thanks the students for their very interesting work, especially since they didn't receive any school credit, and let them know that what they are doing really does make a difference to the city.

**4. Committee Member updates**

Verveer noted that the Transit and Parking Commission adopted all of the recommendations that were made by the DCC regarding the Pedal Pub or Commercial Quadricycle ordinance. He asked for clarification on whether or not the Committee wanted the driver to be a licensed Bartender or just take a responsible servers course. Frank replied that he did intend that the driver be a licensed bartender.

Crabb asked Cnare to discuss the potential agenda items for the next meeting. Cnare said that she was working with Eric Knepp, Park Division to have a discussion about Mall Boundaries and payment schedules. Bill Fruhling may be able to come and discuss the issues surrounding public bathrooms, and that she would try to reschedule the Safety discussion with the Downtown Police Officer for next time. Cnare added that she will also look into have the Parklet discussion on the next agenda as request this evening.

Mary Carbine handed out the new 2014 Downtown Guide and map.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Carbine, seconded by Mayer, to Adjourn at 7:00 p.m.  
The motion passed by voice vote/other.**