



City of Madison

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

Thursday, June 21, 2018

5:30 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 9 - Michael E. Verveer; Ledell Zellers; Gregory O. Frank; Adam J. Plotkin; Ted Crabb; David Ahrens; Sandra J. Torkildson; Lori J. Henn and Al Martin

Excused: 1 - Thomas E. Hirsch

APPROVAL OF May 17, 2018 MINUTES

The Committee noted a duplicate paragraph regarding the State Street public art piece under agenda items 5 and 6. It was noted that the paragraph should be deleted under agenda item 6.

The Committee also suggested the need for some context about the Mayor's Design Award under agenda item 6. *(Staff suggests adding the following: "The Mayor's Design Awards are given out every two years to recognize high quality architecture, urban design, and placemaking efforts.")*

A motion was made by Crabb, seconded by Zellers, to Approve the May 17, 2018 Minutes as amended. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

1. [50087](#) Report of Mall Maintenance and Special Events 2018

Chad Hughes, Parks Division, stated that the summer plantings are in and that there have been a number of successful events so far this summer. He stated that two benches, two bike racks and planters have been added to the 100 block of State Street. He also noted that power washing the sidewalks is going well.

Ald. Verveer expressed frustration that the fountains on the Square have yet to be turned on, and this is a problem every year. Other Committee members concurred, and it was further noted that the fountain by Overture and the splash pad at Peace Park also are not operational. Crabb understood that work had been done previously to make the fountains on the Square easier to turn on. Martin added that since they are seasonal, work on them should start in March so they can be turned on sooner. The Committee requested a report from Parks staff on the issues related to all of these water features prior to the July meeting. The report should be sent to DCC members far enough ahead of the July meeting that they can forward any questions or comments before that meeting so that some action can be

taken. Tom Skaife from the Parks Division should be invited to attend if possible.

A question was raised regarding people using the electrical outlets in the streetlight poles and whether that was acceptable. Hughes replied that it was not and that the Mall Crew can control whether the outlets are powered. He noted that they usually don't turn off the power beyond the 100 and 200 blocks of State Street. Verveer suggested that the power could be turned off unless there is an event. Hughes stated that power to the poles is controlled from the big cabinets and that there are a lot of other circuits in those, such as the ones that control the streetlights. He can talk to the Traffic Engineering Division about this issue.

- Discussion about budget needed for annual banner refurbishment, kiosk repairs and furniture replacement/refurbishment

Hughes stated that when State Street and the Square were reconstructed, a maintenance budget for banner and furniture refurbishment and repair was not created. This also applies to kiosk repairs and other ongoing maintenance items. The committee suggested that the Parks Division develop a repair and replacement schedule with cost estimates as the basis for an ongoing budget line item. Crabb noted that the City took on this additional maintenance responsibility when it accepted the new design and it should be budgeted for. Verveer stated that he would talk about this with Parks Division administration for consideration during the budget process, and noted that a third of the cost could be funded by the special assessment.

- Top of State Activities

Frank stated that a group of business and property owners and others has recently met twice to discuss solutions to issues at the top of State Street, noting that these issues are nothing new, just worse. He noted that the environment is pretty good when there are programmed activities occurring, but when there isn't, problems quickly fill in. He stated that the group is exploring a number of solutions, including basic physical changes to the area. This may involve putting a gate at the alley entrance and modifying the seating wall and retaining walls around the sculpture. He said that the group will be meeting with the Mayor and alders. Zellers noted that prior physical alterations to the space, such as removing the Philosophers' Stones, did not alleviate the issues and she would have to be convinced that modifying other aspects of the landscape would help. Frank emphasized that this is hurting businesses, especially those nearby with outdoor cafes. Henn concurred and stated that it has become a serious safety issues for employees. Crabb stated that this is the type of issue the DCC should deal with and that having representatives from the group that has been meeting, the police, a homeless advocate, and others attend a DCC meeting would be appropriate. Frank stated that the group is meeting again next week to identify and prioritize specific tasks so they can meet with policymakers and the DCC. Torkildson asked that this be placed on the July meeting agenda for a larger discussion after they have more information.

2. [51965](#) Policy Discussion about transforming existing sidewalk cafes using encroachment agreements and/or leases, to a regular sidewalk cafe licenses

Fruhling stated that Planning Division staff gave the wrong DCC meeting date to Economic Development Division staff and asked that this item be referred. The Committee decided to have this placed on their August agenda.

3. [33826](#) Committee Member & Staff Updates

- Update on State Street Art Project

Fruhling stated that the contract with the artist is signed and that all Affirmative Action requirements have been satisfied. He stated that the Engineering Division is waiting on the engineering drawings from the artist and expects that to happen very soon. He noted that the

piece is scheduled to be installed in 2019.

Alder Verveer noted that several alders are working on an alternative to the downtown alcohol ordinance proposed by the Mayor. The alternative would have some restaurants quit serving alcohol earlier and create an ad-hoc committee. He noted that the DCC is a referral on the originally proposed ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Crabb, seconded by Ahrens, to Adjourn at 7:50 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote/other.