



City of Madison

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

Monday, December 16, 2019

4:30 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bookland at 4:30 pm, following verification that a quorum was present and the meeting had been properly noticed.

Present: 5 - Kenneth G. Johnson; Patrick E. Delmore; Tyler D. Leeper; Elizabeth A. Bookland and Dea Larsen Converse

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Leeper, seconded by Johnson, to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

none

Discussion Items

- 1 [58709](#) Committee on the Environment Statement of Purpose

Attachments: [Recommendations from the COE final .docx](#)

Group continued to work on their message for the Mayor regarding the future of the COE. They emphasized the type of work that needs to be covered, not who will be covering it. They also expressed a desire that the word "environment" continue to be used in the name of the committee, regardless of its future structure. The lakes are what makes Madison Madison, and members are afraid a merger with another committee would put water quality at a lower priority and dwarf its importance.

Members also discussed a desire to hear the Mayor's and Common Council's plans of how environmental concerns including water, land, and air quality would be addressed moving forward if they chose to dissolve the COE. If the City does not have those strategies, members suggested that COE member formulate this strategy.

Attached is the final letter sent to the Mayor's office.

- 2 [57098](#) Small Engine Tool Emissions and Lawn Tool Exchange Program

Attachments: [DRAFT Lawn Tool Rebate Program Outline.pdf](#)

Details of what a pilot lawn tool exchange program would look like were hashed out. Members wish to focus on encouraging residents to purchase electric rather than gas based lawn mowers and leaf blowers to reduce emissions. Focus should be on buying electric products and should suggest that gas based products be disposed of, but not require proof of disposal. Original scope was just for lawn mowers, but leaf blowers have been added as their 2 cycle engines have just as bad, if not worse emissions. Program proposed a \$50 rebate on electric lawn mowers and a \$10 rebate on leaf blowers. Make, model, or type (battery vs plug in) are not relevant, just that they are electric. If possible, would like to target the program towards less affluent neighborhoods that could benefit from the rebate, but would make available to all. Program needs to add educational component of air pollution generated by gas powered equipment. Members discussed possibility of sending out surveys to targeted neighborhoods to gauge residents level of interest. Members also discussed an interest in understanding what type of gas powered equipment the City crews use and where opportunities exist to switch to electric equipment.

REPORTS

- [42158](#) Report of Chair

none

42159 Report from Board of Public Works

Johnson reported that changes to the stormwater management ordinance are forthcoming, which will require increased detention for new and redevelopment projects.

42160 Report from Water Utility Board

Delmore reported that the Board continues to discuss the impact of PFAs. The board is also looking at financing options to reduce interest rates for money borrowed for future construction projects.

42161 Report from Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Bookland reported that SWAC is working on a list of items to be addressed by other committees as the committee is dissolved.

42162 Report from Board of Health for Madison and Dane County

none

42163 Staff Report

Eberhardt reported that annual statement of interest forms are due before 1/7/2020. A summary of the LED light replacement effort in city buildings and native seed collection efforts were highlighted. Members were reminded that City Engineering has Facebook, Twitter, and a biweekly podcast called Everyday Engineering.

56353 Report from Alder

none