

Chairperson: Supervisor Gerry Broderick
Committee Clerk: Carol Mueller, 278-4228
Research Analyst: Julie Esch, 278-4430

COMMITTEE ON PARKS, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Tuesday, June 17, 2008 – 9:00 a.m.

Milwaukee County Courthouse, Room 201-B

MINUTES

Scheduled Items:

PRESENT: Supervisors Sanfelippo, Coggs*, Dimitrijevic, Rice, Larson, Lipscomb and Broderick (Chairperson) – 7

**Supervisor Coggs was not present at roll call but appeared shortly thereafter.*

Appointments - 4

1. 08-220 From the County Executive appointing Mr. Charles Wikenhauser to the position of Director, Milwaukee County Zoo.

Appearances:

Scott Walker, County Executive

Charles Wikenhauser, Director, Milwaukee County Zoo

The County Executive commended Mr. Wikenhauser on how he has kept the Zoo a world-class attraction.

Mr. Wikenhauser explained that he has a very unique job and gave credit to his great staff.

MOTION BY: (Dimitrijevic) Approve appointment. **(Vote 7-0)**

AYES: Sanfelippo, Coggs, Dimitrijevic, Rice, Larson, Lipscomb and Broderick (Chair) - 7

NOES: - 0

2. 08-221 From the Director, Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture appointing Mr. Chuck Ward to the position of Chief of Operations.

Appearances:

Sue Black, Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture

Chuck Ward, Chief of Operations

Scheduled Items (Continued):

Ms. Black acknowledged Mr. Ward's qualifications.

MOTION BY: (Coggs) Approve appointment. **(Vote 7-0)**

AYES: Sanfelippo, Coggs, Dimitrijevic, Rice, Larson, Lipscomb and Broderick (Chair) - 7

NOES: - 0

3. 08-222 From the Director, Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture appointing Ms. Laurie Panella to the position of Chief of Recreation.

Appearances:

Sue Black, Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture
Laurie Panella, Chief of Recreation

Ms. Black explained how Ms. Panella is a lot more than just the Chief of Recreation.

MOTION BY: (Coggs) Approve appointment. **(Vote 7-0)**

AYES: Sanfelippo, Coggs, Dimitrijevic, Rice, Larson, Lipscomb and Broderick (Chair) - 7

NOES: - 0

4. 08-242 From the County Executive, appointing Ms. Laurie Albano to the Milwaukee County Public Art Committee.

Appearances:

Fran Mc Laughlin, County Executive Director of Communication
Laurie Albano, Appointee

Ms. Albano gave a brief overview of her accomplishments including being a former 23-year Park employee and author of a book on the 100 years of the Parks system.

MOTION BY: (Coggs) Approve appointment. **(Vote 7-0)**

AYES: Sanfelippo, Coggs, Dimitrijevic, Rice, Larson, Lipscomb and Broderick (Chair) - 7

NOES: - 0

Resolutions - 4

5. 07-303 A. From the Chairman of the Parks Advisory Commission, a verbal report on (a) an adopted resolution regarding the Commission's recommendation for Parks, Recreation and Culture funding. **(Informational only unless otherwise directed by the Committee.)**

Scheduled Items (Continued):

Appearances:

Louis Fortis, Chairman, Parks Advisory Commission

William Haberman, Vice-Chair Parks Advisory Commission

Mr. Fortis explained, for any new members of the Committee, the charge that had been given to the Parks Advisory Commission from the County Board. The Commission examined funding for the Parks system. Additionally, they reviewed many different aspects of possible funding to find a sufficient means of stable dedicated funding. These included private donations, business/corporate sponsorship, "friends" groups and various types of taxes allowed by law. The only viable solution is the sales tax. This tax is not a regressive tax wherein food is not included. Expenditures must be made to sustain and improve this treasure.

Mr. Haberman stressed how important the quality of life assets are to attracting people and business to Milwaukee County.

The Committee took no action on the item.

6. 08-248 B. A resolution by Supervisor Broderick, providing property tax relief for Milwaukee County by removing all costs related to parks, recreation and cultural funding from the property tax and, instead, increasing the sales and use tax for those same purposes through a binding referendum on the question of whether the State of Wisconsin should grant Milwaukee County the authority to levy an additional one-half of 1% county use and sales tax, the revenues of which will be dedicated to support county parks, recreation and cultural programs and services commensurate with a decrease in the property tax revenues used for parks, recreation and cultural funding.

Appearances:

William Domina, Corporation Counsel

Supervisor Patricia Jursik, District 8

Julie Esch, County Board Research Analyst

The following registered in support of the resolution:

Deanna Andre', Friends of the Domes

Clay Ecklund, Friends of the Domes

Cheri Briscoe, Sierra Club Great Waters Group

Jim Goulee, Executive Director, Parks People

Adrienne Roach, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters

William Lynch, Past President, Preserve Our Parks

Supervisors Coggs, Jursik, Larson and Dimitrijevic requested to be added as cosponsors. Hearing no objections it was so ordered.

Scheduled Items (Continued):

Supervisor Larson asked to amend the resolution by changing the word binding to “advisory” on lines 7, 73 and 116.

Mr. Domina clarified that the County does not have the authority to have a binding referendum. The County can request a non-binding referendum or a ratifying referendum. Milwaukee County can ask the State Legislature for an additional one-half percent sales tax since we are at the limit by law. The County can't ask for a ratifying referendum a one-half percent increase. Therefore, the word “binding” can't be used.

MOTION BY: (Larson) Amend lines 7, 73 and 116 to change the word from binding to “advisory”. **(Vote 6-1)**

AYES: Coggs, Dimitrijevic, Rice, Larson, Lipscomb and Broderick (Chair) - 6

NOES: Sanfelippo - 1

Supervisor Rice requested clarity from Corporation Counsel on the propriety of the language “guarantee a reduction in property tax levy.” Can the current County Board guarantee a property tax reduction to future boards?

Mr. Domina said generally, county boards are authorized to enact ordinances. Ordinances are binding by current and future boards as to content. Budgets are based on resolutions. Ordinances trump resolutions. With this general application, the Board could enact legislation that would be binding on future boards through the ordinance format. He said that the legislature could also change it in the future. Additionally, Mr. Domina will have information prior to the full County Board meeting on whether a board can enact an ordinance that binds future boards with budgetary choices.

MOTION BY: (Rice) Amend lines 117-120 to read as follows “Shall the State of Wisconsin grant Milwaukee County the authority to levy a one-half (0.50) of one percent county use and sales tax, estimated to generate \$60,000,000 - \$65,000,000 annually, of which \$30,000,000 will be used to reduce property tax revenues currently used to fund the County’s parks, recreation and cultural programs and services?” **(Vote 2-5)**

AYES: Sanfelippo and Rice – 2

NOES: Coggs, Dimitrijevic, Larson, Lipscomb and Broderick (Chair) - 5

Motion failed.

MOTION BY: (Lipscomb) Amend line 19 by striking the words “as it is adjusted annually for inflation”. **(Vote 6-1)**

AYES: Coggs, Dimitrijevic, Rice, Larson, Lipscomb and Broderick (Chair) - 6

NOES: - Sanfelippo – 1

Scheduled Items (Continued):

Supervisor Lipscomb requested to be added as cosponsor. Hearing no objections it was so ordered.

Supervisor Jursik said that the County is already doing a resolution for Transit, is it possible that we can also do this for Parks. She says, "Yes! Yes!" and is launching the yes yes campaign. Both Transit and Parks suffer from the same structural deficit issues. These structural deficits are obvious and crying out to every one of us. There is an over reliance on the property tax. The time to act is now. She has made a pledge that she will go to every organization in her district that makes a request, to tell them why it is "yes yes."

The Committee heard comments for the registered speakers in favor of this resolution.

MOTION BY: (Dimitrijevic) Approve as amended. **(Vote 5-2)**

AYES: Coggs, Dimitrijevic, Larson, Lipscomb and Broderick (Chair) - 5

NOES: - Sanfelippo and Rice – 2

7. 08-249 A resolution by Supervisor Weishan, providing for an advisory referendum on the question of whether the State of Wisconsin should grant Milwaukee County the authority to levy a one percent (1%) county use and sales tax, the revenues of which will be dedicated to support property tax relief, Milwaukee County parks, recreation and culture programs and services, transit services and public safety. **(Also to the Committees on Transportation, Public Works and Transit and Judiciary, Safety and General Services.)**

Appearance:

Supervisor John Weishan, District 16

Supervisor Weishan asked that this item be withdrawn.

8. 08-210 A resolution by Supervisor Coggs, authorizing and directing the Director of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture to study the condition of the bathrooms in all Parks buildings.

MOTION BY: (Coggs) Lay the item over until the July cycle. **(Vote 7-0)**

AYES: Sanfelippo, Coggs, Dimitrijevic, Rice, Larson, Lipscomb and Broderick (Chair) - 7

NOES: - 0

Parks Program - 1

9. 08-R14 From the Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture, a status report on the implementation of the Park Ranger program within the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture (DPRC). **(Informational unless otherwise directed by**

Scheduled Items (Continued):

the Committee.)

Appearance:

Laura Schloesser, Parks Safety and Training Manager

Ms. Schloesser explained that this program entails enforcement through education. The key focus is the park watch program in neighborhoods. Training includes communication with the public, rangers and sheriffs, body mechanics, bike safety, radio programming and education on gang and ethnic cultures.

The Department and Committee thanked Wheel and Sprocket for their generous gift of bicycles, backpacks and other equipment for the Park rangers.

The Committee took no action on the item.

Presentation

10. 08-R12 A. From the Menomonee Valley Business Association, a presentation on the easement for the Canadian Pacific Railroad for the access road behind Mitchell Park Domes. **(Informational unless otherwise directed by the Committee.)**

Appearances:

Melissa Cook, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Laura Bray, Menomonee Valley Business Partners (MVBP)

Ms. Bray gave a brief overview of the handout on the progress and goals for the Menomonee Valley. The revitalization will benefit the entire Milwaukee community. The plan includes 60 acres devoted to private development, 60 acres to park space and the remaining acres for roads and infrastructure. To date, the revitalization includes six business, 688 jobs and \$71 million in private investment. The ultimate goal is to bring 1,200 jobs to the area.

Included in the revitalization is an innovative stormwater system. New businesses that purchase land will help offset future costs by paying a fee similar to an association fee. The businesses didn't have to pay as much for the land, since they don't need to pay for individual stormwater systems.

A plan for a walkway to connect the two sides of the river is underway. A portion of the trail would run from Mitchell Park to the river's edge. To make these plans happen, the MVBP and the DNR need to acquire land from the Canadian Pacific Railroad.

Scheduled Items (Continued):

The negotiations include a right of way entry permit for the Canadian Pacific Railroad. Cooperation from all parties will allow for future plans to move forward.

Ms. Cook said this is a large project and is a great partnership with all parties. The Hank Aaron Trail would ultimately run to 124th Street and Bluemound Road. The trail will eventually connect the east and west ends of the Oak Leaf Trail.

The Committee took no action on this informational item.

- 08-R12 B. From the Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture, a report regarding the Canadian Pacific Railroad utilization of the access road behind Mitchell Park Domes. **(Informational unless otherwise directed by the Committee.)**

Appearance:

El Schneider, Parks Contract Services Officer

This Item was taken out of order.

Mr. Schneider explained how this easement has escalated into a larger cooperation and is much more beneficial.

There is an access road that goes to the Canadian Pacific rail yards that runs behind the Domes. The original right of entry agreement expired in 1980. The Canadian Pacific has been making minimal payments each year for this right of entry based on the old agreement.

The property was appraised last year and negotiations will be based on this recent appraisal. Rather than negotiating separately with each entity, the Canadian Pacific Railroad requested negotiating with all entities involved including Milwaukee County, DNR and the MVBP.

Mr. Schneider encouraged anybody that hasn't been down in the valley recently to do so. The transformation is incredible.

The Department plans to bring an item forward for the July cycle, based on these negotiations for County Board approval.

The Committee took no action on this informational item.

Scheduled Items (Continued):

Departmental Reports - 7

11. 08-R16 From the Fiscal and Budget Administrator, Department of Administrative Services, Due Diligence Report for Riverside Park Improvements. *(Note this relates to a Capital Improvement Fund Transfer.)* **(Also considered by the Committee on Finance and Audit.) (Informational unless otherwise directed by the Committee.)**

Appearances:

Vince Masterson, Fiscal and Budget Analyst, Dept. of Administrative Services
Kevin Haley, Parks, Landscape Services

Mr. Masterson explained the Riverside Park improvements are in coordination with the Urban Ecology Center (UEC). The funds are from a "pass-through" grant that was awarded to Milwaukee County. The UEC will provide the matching dollars.

Mr. Haley said the partnership with the UEC has been very successful. These projects provide for \$1.5 million in improvements to the Parks through grants.

The Committee took no action on this informational item.

12. 08-R09 From the Director of Transportation and Public Works, a report on the annual Pest Control/Pesticide Management Program for Milwaukee County. **(Informational unless otherwise directed by the Committee.)**

Appearance:

Greg High, Director, Architecture Engineering and Environmental Services

Mr. High explained that the County Board established the request for annual reports on pesticide management.

The Committee took no action on this informational item.

13. 07-111 A. From the Director, Transportation and Public Works, a status report on the implementation of the Green Print resolution provision within the Department of Transportation and Public Works. **(Also to the Committee on Transportation and Public Works.) (Report referred back 05/08 to be revised for 06/08.) (Informational unless otherwise directed by the Committee.)**
(a)

Supervisor Dimitrijevic met independently with the Department and thanked the Department for the improved report.

Scheduled Items (Continued):

The Committee took no action on this informational item.

- 07-111 (a) B. From the Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture, a status report on the implementation of the Green Print resolution provision within the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture. **(Parks Department verbal report on savings recapture.) (Informational unless otherwise directed by the Committee.)**

Appearance:

Guy Smith, Parks Trails Coordinator

There is a new Natural Area Coordinator, Brian Russert. Under his direction, the Parks are ensuring that the conservation reserve grasslands are in compliance with the Federal government. Additionally, the parks are planting urban savannahs, expanding burning programs and have transitioned some mowed areas to prairie natural areas.

The Parks thanked the private businesses that fund this program, Johnson Control, Gilbane Construction, Quad Graphic and several others.

The Committee took no action on this informational item.

14. 08-238 A resolution by Supervisors Broderick and Dimitrijevic, creating a Green Print Workgroup that shall be responsible for implementation of the Green Print Initiative. **(Also to the Committee on Transportation and Public Works.)**

Supervisors Larson and Coggs requested to be added as cosponsors. Hearing no objections it was so ordered.

MOTION BY: (Coggs) Approve. (Vote 7-0)

AYES: Sanfelippo, Coggs, Dimitrijevic, Rice, Larson, Lipscomb and Broderick (Chair) - 7

NOES: - 0

15. 08-R13 From the Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture, a report on the fuel impact on the Parks 2008 Adopted Budget. **(Informational unless otherwise directed by the Committee.)**

Appearance:

Josh Fudge, Parks Budget Manager

Gas prices have risen rapidly in the past six months. They increased five cents again since May. The Parks have used 3,000 less gallons of fuel than last year due to the weather. Conservation efforts include limiting trips.

Scheduled Items (Continued):

The Committee took no action on this informational item.

16. 08-R15 From the Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture, a verbal report on the recent storm damage throughout the Parks system. **(Informational unless otherwise directed by the Committee.)**

Appearances:

Sue Black, Director, Parks Recreation and Culture,
Laurie Panella, Chief of Recreation
Brian Zimmerman, Parks Golf Manager
Kurt Zunker, AFSCME Local #882

Ms. Black informed the Committee that they are still working out what damage might be covered by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or by insurance. The storms affected many roadways and bridges.

Mr. Zimmerman stressed how the storms put an extra burden on the staff. McKinley Marina was the hardest hit with 60 tons of debris coming down through the rivers. Within 7-10 days the majority of the marina was cleaned up. Other areas affected were Bradford Beach, Grant Park, the bluff areas, trails and split rails.

Ms. Panella talked about the golf courses. This is the Parks biggest revenue generator. Some courses and senior centers had to be closed due to the storms. This also resulted in substantial reduction in revenues. Flooding in the Parks resulted in damage to parkways and service buildings. There was damage to carpets, cutting equipment, furniture and small equipment.

Mr. Zunker commented on the need for the Park employees in these situations. All the equipment in the world won't do any good if you can't use it. You can't cut your way to prosperity.

The Committee took no action on this informational item.

This meeting was recorded. Committee files contain copies of the subject reports, communications, resolutions, and ordinances, which may be reviewed upon request to the Chief Committee Clerk. The official copy of these minutes, along with the audio recording of this meeting, are available in the County Board Committee Services Division.

Length of meeting: 9:05 a.m. until approximately 11:20 a.m.

Carol Mueller, Committee Clerk

Scheduled Items (Continued):

Staff Present:

Mr. Scott Walker, County Executive
Mr. Chuck Wikenhauser, Director, Zoo
Ms. Sue Black, Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture
Mr. Chuck Ward, Parks Chief of Operations
Ms. Laurie Panella, Chief of Recreation
Ms. Fran McLaughlin, County Executive Director of Communications
Mr. William Domina, Corporation Counsel
Supervisor Patricia Jursik, District 8
Ms. Julie Esch, Research Analyst
Supervisor John Weishan, District 16
Ms. Laura Schloesser, Parks Safety and Training Manager
Mr. El Schneider, Parks Contract Services Officer
Mr. Vince Masterson, Fiscal and Budget Analyst, DAS
Mr. Kevin Haley, Parks, Planning and Development
Mr. Greg High, Director, Architecture Engineering and Environmental Services
Mr. Guy Smith, Parks Trails Coordinator
Mr. Josh Fudge, Parks Budget Manager
Mr. Brian Zimmerman, Parks Golf Manager

DEADLINE FOR THE PARKS, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:

The next regular meeting for the Parks Committee is July 15, 2008.

All items for the agenda must be in the Committee Clerk's possession by the end of the business day on Tuesday, July 1, 2008.

ADA accommodation requests should be filed with the Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities 278-3932 (voice) or 278-3937 (TTY) upon receipt of this notice.