

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

## **PARKS, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, October 28, 2008 - 9:00 A.M.

**Milwaukee County Courthouse - Room 201-B**

### **MINUTES**

#### **SCHEDULED ITEMS:**

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

#### **Zoo- 1**

1. 08-369 From the Director of the Zoo, requesting authorization to enter into a new 25-year contract with Clear Channel Outdoor, Inc. for billboards on Zoo property.

#### **APPEARANCES:**

Chuck Wikenhauser, Director, Zoo

Marty Wall (Registered to speak after the item was considered)

Mr. Wikenhauser fielded questions from the Supervisors. He explained that the 25-year contract was standard due to the large investment in the digital display screens.

Mr. Wall was given the phone number for the Zoo to contact with his concerns.

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

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

**NOES:** - 0

#### **Resolution – 1**

2. 08-344 A resolution by Supervisor Broderick, naming the community room in the Lake Park Pavilion the Marcia Kay Coles Community Gathering Place.

#### **APPEARANCES:**

Kevin Haley, Parks, Planning and Development

The following registered to speak:

Gil Walter, Lake Park Friends

Buzz Althoeh, Lake Park Friends

Mary Ritchie, Lake Park Friends

Supervisor Coggs requested to be added as a co-sponsor. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

The speakers all voiced their support of the resolution and gave a brief overview of Ms. Cole's passions for Lake Park.

Mr. Haley spoke highly of Ms. Cole and wanted to add the support of Ms. Laurie Albano to the list.

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

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

**NOES:** - 0

SEWRPC Study Committee – 1

3. 08-R23 From the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Study  
Corrected Committee, a report on its findings and recommendations. **(Also considered by  
06-366 the Committees on Intergovernmental Relations and Transportation, Public  
(a)(a) Works and Transit) (Informational unless otherwise directed by the Committee.)**

**APPEARANCES:**

Supervisor John Weishan, Jr., District 16

Phil Evanson, Executive Director, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC)

Ken Yunker, Deputy Director, SEWRPC

Supervisor James Schmitt, District 19

Supervisor Weishan gave the Committee a brief overview of the study findings. He said this was the effort of a large group with good cooperation of all government groups involved. The recommendations include issues of representation standards, civil rights, and urban and suburban needs. He explained how SEWRPC is working on a one-to-one basis with departments. This relationship works well now, but as administrators change the relationships need to be recreated and there is a loss of history. It isn't transparent, but Milwaukee County gets its moneys worth of information and effort from SEWRPC. Milwaukee County needs to provide the staff and resources needed to use SEWRPC to the fullest. Changes need to be made on both sides.

Supervisor Rice stated that SEWRPC is an instrumentality of the State, and recommends the report be referred to Corporation Counsel for an opinion on Milwaukee County's legal rights with respect to the recommendations in the report and report their findings to the Committee in the December cycle. He also suggested that the Legislative Audit Bureau do a review of SEWRPC.

Supervisor Schmitt informed the Committee that the Intergovernmental Relations

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

Committee would also hear the item on November 3. He would like to work with the Supervisors to get this information prior to that meeting.

Mr. Evanson believes that the examination of relationships is a healthy thing. He welcomes the Legislative Audit Bureau review. This was done back in the 1970's, and it was a good thing.

Mr. Yunker addressed the Committee to clarify two important findings addressed in the report. First, on page 3 the line "SEWRPC, however, has been willing to facilitate highway development (and accompanying sprawl) even when this goes against its plans." SEWRPC adopted the 2035 Plan in 2006. There has been only one change to that plan, which was the inclusion of the Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee commuter rail plan. This was brought forward when the Regional Transit Authority sought legislation to implement that rail line. No new highways have been added to the plan.

Secondly, on the same page, the references to the conversion of the freeway interchange at Highway P from a half interchange to a full interchange. This project has been included in the regional transportation plan since 1994. This was listed in programs requested by municipalities in 2005.

A discussion ensued on the issues involving the City of Milwaukee and SEWRPC.

Supervisor Weishan also stated that SEWRPC works not only with Milwaukee County, but all 19 municipalities within it.

On December 31, 2008, Mr. Evanson will be retiring from SEWRPC. The Committee thanked him for his services.

Mr. Yunker will be the new Executive Director. Mr. Yunker looks forward to the continued relationship and improving on it with Milwaukee County.

Supervisor Larson wanted to acknowledge Mr. Yunker's commitment to assist Milwaukee County in the need to find dedicated funding for our transit system. He has been present at many small group meetings speaking to the public on this issue.

**MOTION BY: (Rice)** Refer to Corporation Counsel for an opinion on Milwaukee County's legal rights with respect to the recommendations in the report and report their findings to the Committee in the December cycle. **(Vote 7-0)**

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

**NOES:** - 0

**SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

**MOTION BY: (Coggs)** Have SEWRPC present quarterly strategic plans to the Committee in 2009 regarding the concerns of local officials. **(Vote 7-0)**

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

**NOES:** - 0

**MOTION BY: (Dimitrijevic)** Receive and place on file the study group findings and recommendations report. **(Vote 7-0)**

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

**NOES:** - 0

**Parks – 3**

4. 08-R24 From Growing Power Inc. providing information on a potential joint partnership agreement with the Milwaukee County Parks Greenhouse Center. **(Informational unless otherwise directed by the Committee.)**  
(08-400)

**APPEARANCES:**

Supervisor James Schmitt, District 19  
Julie Esch, Research Analyst  
Heather Ryan, Growing Power  
James Price, Growing Power  
Glen Bultman, Research Analyst  
Sue Black, Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture

Supervisor Schmitt gave the Committee some background on the greenhouses. He feels there is great potential and opportunities for Growing Power Inc. and Milwaukee County to partner. This relationship would enable an underutilized facility to be very productive. Supervisor Schmitt is sensitive to the other issues involved on that site, and thinks this could be a solution during the interim.

A discussion on the construction of the greenhouse at the Domes ensued. Ms. Esch spoke to the Committee about the Parks ten-year plan that is tied to the greenhouse land and the Milwaukee Lutheran College. Mr. Bultman clarified the option of first rights on the sale of this property, should a sale happen. Another factor is the uncertainty of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's use of this land for the Zoo Interchange reconstruction.

Ms. Black stated the entire situation with the greenhouses is very complicated. She also said since the greenhouses are in large part used to supply plants for the Domes, this would be the logical place to have them.

**SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

Ms. Ryan gave a brief history of Growing Power. They do numerous things beside grow food such as; educate people, train people, work with youth to learn how to grow food and work at a job, distribute food and have partnerships with local restaurants and institutions.

Mr. Price addressed the Committee speaking highly of the efforts of Mr. Will Allen. At this time Growing Power is growing seven vertical layers of food and have run out of space. This partnership would provide enormous expansion for the organization. The location would work well with other partnerships they have in that area.

**MOTION BY: (Dimitrijevic)** Receive and place on file. **(Vote 7-0)**

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

**NOES:** - 0

5. 06-134 (a)(a) From the Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture, requesting approval to submit a Great Lakes Legacy Act Application for Milwaukee River Sediment Remediation in Cooperation with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). **(Informational unless otherwise directed by the Committee.)**

**APPEARANCES:**

Kevin Haley, Parks, Planning and Development

Marsha Burzynski, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Mr. Haley spoke to the Committee on the Milwaukee River and Lincoln Creek cleanup. The Milwaukee River has been rerouted over the years. Because of Milwaukee's industrial past, there are issues with PBC, heavy metals and other materials. Sediments move through Lincoln Creek and settle in the river and down stream. In 2006, some cleanup was done. In 2007, contaminated sediment was removed and replaced with clean sediment. This project would be phase two. It could cost upwards of \$17 to \$35 million to clean up this area. It would be in Milwaukee County's best interest to partner with the WDNR and the USECP for the cleanup. The WDNR will provide the needed local match. This partnership will be at no cost to Milwaukee County.

Supervisor Lipscomb voiced his concerns regarding the timeframe for completion of this project and the length of the draw down of the water levels. Ms. Burzynski told Supervisor Lipscomb the USEPA has contractors on site. It may be possible to have partial fills for the cleanup to proceed.

Mr. Haley said the intent is to start this project in 2009 and move as quickly as possible. If they need to extend the time that the dam is open, the parties

**SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

involved will work with the residents.

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

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

**NOES:** - 0

6. 08-385 From the Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture, requesting approval to apply for one or more 2009-2010 Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP) grants.

**APPEARANCES:**

Kevin Haley, Parks, Planning and Development

Sue Black, Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture

Mr. Haley said this grant would provide additional funding for low cost Lake Michigan shore projects. The Department is trying to meet the timeline for application and has some projects under consideration for this money.

Ms. Black told the Supervisors she would be willing to meet with them and review the project list.

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

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

**NOES:** - 0

7. 08-R22 From the Director of Parks Recreation and Culture, a verbal report back on the feasibility including costs of the Parks Department temporarily grassing Park East land. **(Informational unless otherwise directed by the Committee.)**

**APPEARANCE:**

Kevin Haley, Parks, Planning and Development

Mr. Haley explained this report was prompted by the slowdown in development in the Park East. Using the map he distributed, he showed the Committee the parcels that are owned by Milwaukee County. There are only a few properties that would be considered. There is a possibility to invest some money to use a few parcels for parking needs in the area, thereby generating revenue to proceed with grassing other parcels. Any actions to improve the area would require outlay of money by Milwaukee County.

Supervisor Broderick requested a report for the December cycle on more specifics regarding green space options such as sod verses seed and the related costs.

**SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

**The Committee took no action on this informational item.**

**Resolution –1**

8. 08-398 A resolution by Supervisors Dimitrijevic, Weishan and Broderick, to exempt the hiring of the Director of Sustainability from the County’s “hiring freeze” so cost saving “green” initiatives can be identified and implemented without additional delay.

**APPEARANCE:**

Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, District 4

Supervisor Dimitrijevic informed the Committee that Supervisors Larson and Jursik asked to be cosponsors. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Supervisor Dimitrijevic made a motion to approve the resolution. She is frustrated with the general inaction of the Executive Branch in getting this position filled. The “Green Print” legislation was adopted in July of 2007, and the funding for the Director of Sustainability was provided in the 2008 budget.

Supervisor Rice questioned the lack of referral to the Personnel Committee, since this is a hiring issue. He then moved to refer this item to the Personnel Committee. After a brief discussion, he agreed to amend his motion to include the approval and the referral.

**MOTION BY: (Rice)** Approve the said resolution and refer this item to the Personnel Committee. **(Vote 7-0)**

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

**NOES:** - 0

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: 9:00 a.m. until approximately 10:50 a.m.  
Carol Mueller, Committee Clerk

**SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

Staff Present:

Chuck Wikenhauser, Director, Zoo  
Mr. Kevin Haley, Parks, Planning and Development  
Supervisor John Weishan, Jr., District 16  
Supervisor James Schmitt, District 19  
Ms. Julie Esch, Research Analyst  
Mr. Glen Bultman, Research Analyst  
Ms. Sue Black, Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture  
Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, District 4

**DEADLINE FOR THE PARKS, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:**

The next regular meeting for the Parks Committee is December 9, 2008. **All items for the agenda must be in the Committee Clerk's possession by the end of the business day on Tuesday, November 25, 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.***