



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved CENTRAL PARK DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE

Monday, February 2, 2009

8:00 AM

LL-110, Madison Municipal Bldg.
215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

1 CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

STAFF:

- Bill Bauer, Parks
- Mark Olinger, Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development

CONSULTANTS

- Gil Jevne, SAA, "3"
- Dan Williams, JJR, "3"

GUESTS:

- Paul Abramson
- Nan Chaney
- Bill Jolin

Present: 9 -

Marsha A. Rummel; Joseph R. Clausius; William W. Barker; Nancy T. Ragland; Joe Sensenbrenner; Bradley C. Mullins; Phyllis Wilhelm; Amy T. Overby and Truly Remarkable Loon

Excused: 2 -

Leslie C. Schroeder and Susan M. Schmitz

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2a December 3, 2008: <http://legistar.cityofmadison.com/calendar/#current>

A motion was made by Ragland, seconded by Sensenbrenner, to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote.

2b January 7, 2009: <http://legistar.cityofmadison.com/calendar/#current>

A motion was made by Sensenbrenner, seconded by Loon, to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Abramson commented about how it would be nice to have an open green space that is not encumbered by an overly "built environment."

Questions to Paul re: festivals as Wil-Mar member. Mr. Abramson said went to Central Park in first place, now not able to accommodate large numbers of people, with drainage that makes area safe for everyone regardless of weather. Would like to return Fete de Marquette back to Central Park when improvements are made.

Bill Jolin of Willy Street Park introduced himself.

4 DISCUSSION ITEMS

4a Results of Discussion with Wisconsin & Southern Railroad and Office of Commissioner of Railroads Regarding Few Street Crossing and Safety Plan

Results of Discussion with Wisconsin & Southern Railroad (WSORR) and Office of Commissioner of Railroads (OCR) regarding Few Street crossing and safety plan. Mr. Olinger and Barker presented their thoughts on safety plan, accessing of North Few Street, and OCR/WSORR concerns re: balance of Corridor and potential closings. Notes of that meeting, below:

Discussion notes

Central Park & East Rail Corridor Safety Plan

Date/Time: January 26, 2009, 8:30AM

Location: MMB, LL-110

Purpose: Meeting to discuss railroad safety issues related to Central Park and the East Rail Corridor

Attendees: Tom Clauder, Tom Running, Ken Lucht, Beth ?, Mark Olinger, Bill Barker (Central Park Task Force), Marcia Rummel (Alderperson, Dist. 6), Phyllis Wilhelm (MG&E), Ken Saiki, Gil Jevne (SAA, "3")

1. Introductions
2. Ken Saiki reviewed Central Park Safety Plan for the rail corridor. Crossing with gates and signals at Few Street crossing, decorative fencing along all edges of RR ROW.
3. Tom Running comments
 - a. Have long been looking at street crossings and closures of cross-streets
 - i. 3 closures initially proposed
 - ii. Having crossings at every block is not good.
 - iii. Few Street crossing is not a given w/ the commissioner. This will be looked at critically by the commissioner.
 - iv. Not familiar with sliding gates (Like Ravinia, IL has) and is confined by required standards in the MUTCD.
 - v. Brearly Street looks like a good opportunity for closure. This includes closure for pedestrians and bicycles as well.

- b. Study the Corridor (Blair to Baldwin)
 - i. Gates & Closures
 - ii. Signals & improvements
 - c. Fence behind the Kohl Center seems to work well. This 7' fence is chain link. No horizontal bars that could be used as a ladder. Fencing entire ROW could cause sense of entrapment if someone enters rail from end.
 - d. Commuter Rail Stop
 - i. Identified Baldwin area as a stop as it is close to employment and residential housing, etc.
4. Wisconsin Southern (Ken)
- a. The big "Y" in track layout is how the trains turn around and trains may extend well into park area during switching and may tie up Baldwin crossing.
 - b. Few Street crossing is on a curve which they don't like but should be OK with safety improvements.
 - c. Commuter rail on one track with 2-way train.
 - d. A "Power" switch could be utilized to allow switching without engineer getting out to do manually. There is one at Broom Street & John Nolen Drive that seems to work well.
 - e. Would like to increase train speeds to 25-30 mph to reduce traffic wait times. Need to upgrade tracks for this to happen.
 - f. Safety improvements include lights and gates.
5. Process to start with Public hearings on Few Street crossing, looking at other proposed closures and returning with Proposed Decisions from Railroad Commissioner.
6. Send images of Ravinia if we have them.

4b [14637](#)

Presentation of Revised Master Plan

- Are the raised gardens near Willy Street Park included in Central Park or separate? Separate, City provides land but does not maintain them.
- Call the playground an "Accessible Playground."
- Include informational kiosk early on in the implementation plans.
- Provide high-quality, durable, and irrigated turf grass in Great Lawn. Suggested that "3" or City contact Steve Taylor from EAA in Osh Kosh regarding his testing of various lawns and drainage systems at his facility.
- Need to solve drainage and standing water problems. This should be handled during design development with a storm water management plan for the park.
- Need assessed values of acquisition properties. City will provide and insert into budget.
- Cost areas should match the implementation plans.
- Four to five potential funding sources.

- Investigate if an EIS has been done or is still required.
- Does the RR spur along the north side of the park need to stay? Phyllis was unsure but would check.
- City still owns Railroad Street ROW.
- Long-term opportunity for expansion of park north of Railroad Street should be considered.
- Can the funds be raised in the public sector?
- Can we still have a park if we don't have the Few Street crossing?
- Could Ingersoll be used as a main entrance into the park? Yes, the Great Lawn area could be accessed from Ingersoll.
- Who makes the application to the OCR? The City does.
- City needs to meet with RR to discuss the East Rail Corridor and proposed closings and then complete application. Timeline is approximately two-three months.
- Need more detail of the proposed crossing at Few Street to take to the OCR. Need to get images of the gates at Ravinia in Illinois.
- Need realistic costs for the track relocation and better costs for the McCarthy Plan.

4c [14638](#) Discussion of Revised Master Plan Cost Estimates

"3" distributed conceptual construction budget numbers to reflect the costs of the plan and noted that these figures need to match the proposed phases. Also, it was mentioned that additional columns for the various funding sources would be added and brought back to the Task Force for further discussion (see attached).

4d Review & Discussion of Draft Implementation Outline

To be discussed at next meeting.

4e Questions & Answers

Recommend that City and OCR to look at options where OCR and WSORR related to Few Street. Solution to look - consider corridor issues likely to be raised by Commission.

Timeline: 2-3 months

A motion was made by Overby, seconded by Ragland, that the City proceed with OCR application to address Few Street crossing and to consider the corridor issues likely to be raised by the Commissioner as part of the application. The motion passed by voice vote.

5 UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

- Held after next meeting.
- Noted appreciation to MG&E & "3" for their work in facilitation.

6 ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Sensenbrenner, seconded by Mullins, to Adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.