



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Environmental Council

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Friday, September 7, 2018

2:30 PM

Whole Foods Market, 3313 University Ave. Madison

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A. Call To Order

Present 4 - LAKSHMI SRIDHARAN, JEFFREY SOELLNER, THOMAS EGGERT, and JULIE SCHWELLENBACH

Excused 2 - TEAGUE MAWER, and NATALIE EISNER

Soellner called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm. Habecker and Ted Francis, a local environmental engineer were present. Supervisor Patrick Downing was not present and is no longer on the Council.

B. Consideration of Minutes

This was approved

C. Action Items

1. Private Fundraising

No progress made this month. Habecker will provide Chair Soellner a contact within American Transmission Company (ATC) so that he can schedule a visit.

2. Field Review of Grant Projects

Natalie Eisner graciously set up the field tour of three sites. Due to flooding, the Black Earth Watershed Association cancelled their tour. The flooding swept away over half of their informational signs about the invasive New Zealand Mud Snail. The Council visited two sites, Hoyt Park and Pheasant Branch Conservancy.

We were met at Hoyt Park by Tim Astfalk, Friends of Hoyt Park Board President; Tim Kessenich, Treasurer; and Eric Fruehling, Summer Ranger. We walked some of this 23 acre park that is mainly forest and prairie habitat to see where our grant is paying for a professional team to burn 2 prairie areas this fall. Hoyt Park became a park in 1933 after the stone quarry within it ceased operations. It was named for Frank Hoyt, a leader in the Madison Park and Pleasure Drive Association. It contains the old quarry and during the Depression the Civil Works Administration constructed a series of stone fireplaces and tables using materials from the park's quarry. The Friends of Hoyt Park were initially established to repair these fireplaces. Since this has been done, the park has been placed on the National Historic Registry because of its significant Civilian Works structures. The Friends group is now focused on ecological restoration and maintenance. The Environmental Council's grants have provided assistance in invasive species removal and prairie maintenance. The Friends also have monthly workdays and summer educational programs such as I-naturalist. The group was very appreciative of the Council's support for their stewardship projects.

The Council then traveled to Pheasant Branch Conservancy to meet with Paul Slota, Jim Loving and Susan Gruber all part of the Restoration Management Committee of the Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy. The Friends have regular work days, have partnered with Clean Lakes Alliance to supply their volunteer groups with project work, and have hired interns to help with these workday projects. The Council saw the job box (for safe chemical storage) and the bike handle trimmer that is used for invasive species removal. The volunteers and Friends are very appreciative for equipment both new and in good working order to successfully carry out projects. The Friends have hired a land Coordinator who helps them plan the management schedule, both short and long term and helps establish partnership arrangements with the City of Middleton. They are also working on grant projects for aquatic invasive species and are helping to restore areas that were damaged by the recent floods.

D. Presentations

1. Announcements

Schwellenback announced that she met with Alex of X)-Bees and found that he did not have any substantial research to back his bee hive design. Thus she did not feel Environmental Council should endorse his non-profit company. Habecker announced that flooding has dominated the environmental issues this past several weeks.

2. Pollinator Protection Update

Habecker said she attended a Pollinator Habitat Planning workshop designed for farmers and landowners. Eighteen attended and Xerces staff and NRCS staff presented. It was held at both the Edgerton Library and at Silverwood County Park. Habecker will use some of the information she learned to update presentations and develop some new ones. Habecker is also steadily working on trying to get 5-6 more pollinator gardens established in municipalities around Dane County. She has been working with the following: City of Sun Prairie, City of Madison Parks (trying to get a site at Warner Park), Village of Waunakee (after examining proposed sites, Habecker has since moved to working with Schumacher Farm Park to have more visibility, garden support and outreach), Village of Oregon and the Village of Cross Plains (in Garner Park that was flooded last week). The process in moving forward has been slow and full of meetings and pauses to check back with other groups.

E. Reports to Committee- none

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

The next meeting of the Council will be on Wednesday, October 10th at 5pm in the City County Building. Room to be determined. This will be directly followed by a Pollinator Protection Work Group meeting.

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

Ted Francis a local environmental engineer said that he would be interested in attending a future meeting of the Council. He could not attend the field review.

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law - none

I. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 3:20. The group then went on the field review.

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LUS CIM: Yog hais tias koj xav tau ib tug neeg txhais lus, ib tug neeg txhais ntawv, cov ntawv ua lwm hom ntawv los sis lwm cov kev pab kom siv tau cov kev pab, cov kev ua ub no (activity) los sis qhov kev pab cuam, thov hu rau tus xov tooj hauv qab yam tsawg peb hnuv ua hauj lwm ua ntej yuav tuaj sib tham.

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