

Chairperson: Louis Fortis, 276-2222
Clerk: Carol Mueller, 278-4228
Research Analyst: Julie Esch 278-4430

Parks Advisory Commission

Wednesday, June 18, 2008 - 3:00 P.M.

**219 North Milwaukee Avenue, 7th Floor
(Public parking available across the street)**

MINUTES

Scheduled Items:

PRESENT: John Gurda, F. William Haberman, Daniel Steininger and Louis Fortis (Chair) - 4

EXCUSED: Henry Hamilton III – 1

ABSENT: Rafael Acevedo, Jr., and Penelope Stewart - 2

ALTERNATE: Nancy Davlantes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

2. Approval of minutes from May 7, 2008

The minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote of members present.

3. Report to the Commission from Mr. Fortis regarding meeting with the County Board Chairman

Mr. Fortis explained how he and Mr. Haberman met with the County Board Chairman to update him on the actions of the Commission. They were made aware of Supervisor Broderick's pending resolution coming before the Parks Committee.

The Parks Committees put forth a resolution calling for a one-half of one percent "advisory referendum" for parks, recreation and cultural services that will go to the full County Board on June 26, 2008. The resolution includes wording regarding property tax relief for Milwaukee County. This action was pushed forward due to the Transportation Committee's Chair submitting a resolution for one-half of one percent to fund transit and give property tax relief for the transit system equal to the current funding.

The need to move forward this fast was not the intent of the Commission. The Commission's recommendation was to fund these services with one-half of one percent of sales tax revenues by asking for binding legislation directly from the State Legislature. This action would not have gone forward in the fall session of

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

the Legislature. Prior to any action, a public relation blitz was to be waged to inform the public of the blight of the current park system.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding options left for the Commission.

Supervisor Broderick explained to the members regarding the need to move forward at this time. Opinion is that this will be one of the largest turnouts for a presidential election in numerous years. He explained to the Commission that a substitute resolution to combine together both pieces of the offered resolutions for a one percent increase in sales tax might be presented to the County Board for the June cycle.

Commission members voiced their frustrations with these actions. Their intent was never to combine requests for parks and transit together. They want to know what can be done to reverse or block this action from moving forward.

At this time, the members will need to wait for the actions of the County Board to decide how to proceed.

4. Discussion on public relation strategies

The Commission decided to make a decision on future actions and meetings following the outcome of the County Board actions on June 26, 2008.

5. Future meeting dates and items for discussion

None were suggested at the meeting.

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Josh Fudge Director, Parks Budget Manager
Supervisor Gerry Broderick, District 3
Ms. Julie Esch, Research Analyst

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:15 p. m.

Carol Mueller, Committee Clerk

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