

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** December 14, 2018

**To:** William Lynch  
Domes Task Force Chairperson

**From:** Stuart Carron, Director of Facilities Management and member, Domes Task Force  
Dept of Administrative Services, Milwaukee County

**Subject:** Current Financial Status of the Domes Task Force

At the most recent Domes Task Force meeting, there was some question regarding the funding for various initiatives that the Task Force has undertaken and is currently contemplating. This memo intends to clarify the current status.

The Milwaukee County Task Force on the Mitchell Park Domes (Domes Task Force) has received financial support Milwaukee County since 2016 through contributions to a capital account named “Domes Long Term Planning Project”, project number WP49003. The following contributions have been made by Milwaukee County to this capital project:

1. June 2016 - Appropriation transfer in the amount of \$120,000 from County-wide unallocated contingency
2. May 2017 - Appropriation transfer in the amount of \$64,000 from the Domes Mesh Project (WP49002)

The following summary was provided by the Milwaukee County Comptroller’s Office on December 4, 2018 regarding encumbered and expended funds to date:

<b>REVENUE (WP49003)</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
June 2016 allocation	\$120,000
May 2017 allocation	\$64,000
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$184,000</b>
<b>EXPENSE (WP49003)</b>	
HAMMEL, GREEN & ABRAHAMSON (Spent)	(\$126,620)
HAMMEL, GREEN & ABRAHAMSON (Remaining Contract)	(\$29,510)
A&E Staff Time (Spent)	(\$19,956)
MilWeb1 LLC (Remaining Contract)	(\$81)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>(\$176,167)</b>
<b>REMAINING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$7,833</b>

In addition to funds allocated to the Domes Task Force capital project, Milwaukee County has made other contributions to capital projects at the Mitchell Park Domes. Since 2015, these include:

1. WP49001 – Mitchell Park Domes - \$1,000,000
2. WP49002 – Mitchell Park Domes – Mesh installation - \$352,000
3. WP55301 – Mitchell Park Conservatory Planning - \$320,000

These projects are all related in that they address needs at the Mitchell Park Domes, however they are functionally separate allocations for separate projects. Based on recent questions raised and comments made by Domes Task Force members, it appears that there is a question as to the intent of the most recent \$320,000 allocation to project WP55301. This project “Mitchell Park Conservatory Planning” was approved as a capital project in the 2018 Milwaukee County Budget, which was adopted by the County Board in November 2017.

Contemplating a future County-funded construction project, WP55301 allocated funds to the County Departments that would be responsible for the actual construction planning, design, and contracting in future years: “Requesting Department or Agency: Parks, Recreation, and Culture” and “Managing Department or Agency: Dept of Admn Services – Facilities Management”. This project anticipated two phases:

- In 2018, “the options for Conservatory programming will be detailed with actual space allocation requirements and full cost estimates so that a reliable future budget process can be outlined” and
- In 2019 – 2022, “the design and planning for the Task Force recommended future Conservatory and the phased construction of repairs and/or new construction”

**This funding is currently viewed with the expectation that the Domes Task Force will make its recommendations to the County Board and that the County Board will choose a direction for the Parks Department and Facilities Division prior to beginning more detailed planning.** This level of detailed planning is typically carried out by County staff planners, licensed architects, engineers, and subject matter experts who routinely complete public works projects for the benefit of the public. There is no precedent for detailed planning and estimating to be carried out under the direction of advisory task forces.

Had the Board intended for these funds to be used by the Domes Task Force, they would have allocated them to WP49003, as they did with the 2016 and 2017 allocations. The County Board could certainly choose to allocate additional funding to the Domes Task Force, including directing funding from WP55301. But until the Domes Task Force reports to the Board and specifically requests and receives funding allocation for additional activities, the Task Force has essentially no funding source remaining.

At this point the Parks Department and Facilities Division are also supporting the work of the Milwaukee Public Museum / Domes Task Force, created by the County Board as part of the 2019 Budget, adopted in November 2018. Additionally we are undertaking the testing of the concrete Domes structure in Jan-March 2019, and plan a glazing system design investigation throughout 2019. We are logically awaiting decisions from the County Board about the direction that the Board wishes to pursue for the Domes prior to embarking on the detailed planning activities that were assigned to them as part of WP55301. When such direction is clarified, we stand ready to develop and execute accordingly.