

Parks, Energy and Environment Committee on 2021-12-07 9:00 AM - VIRTUAL MEETING

This meeting will be live-streamed on the County Legislative Information Center:

<https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Meeting Time: 12-07-21 09:00

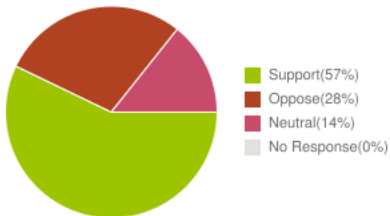
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Parks, Energy and Environment Committee on 2021-12-07 9:00 AM - VIRTUAL MEETING This meeting will be live-streamed on the County Legislative Information Center: https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx	12-07-21 09:00	42	7	4	2	1

Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Parks, Energy and Environment Committee on 2021-12-07 9:00 AM - VIRTUAL MEETING

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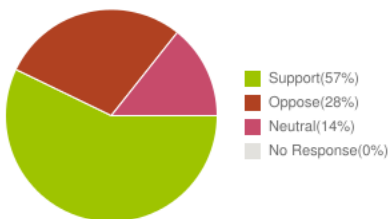
12-07-21 09:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
7 21-1041 From the Executive Director of Parks providing an information report on the Kegel Alpha Trail Modification. (INFORMATIONAL ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE COMMITTEE)	3	1	2	0
13 21-1070 From the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and Parks Department, an informational item providing an update about the Domes Restoration Project, including the facilities materials projects and the capital funding stack and legal partnership analyses. (INFORMATIONAL ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE COMMITTEE)	3	2	0	1
15 21-1042 From the Executive Director of Parks providing an informational report in response to File 21-762, on the existing conditions and potential future improvements at Noyes Park. (INFORMATIONAL ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE COMMITTEE)	1	1	0	0

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

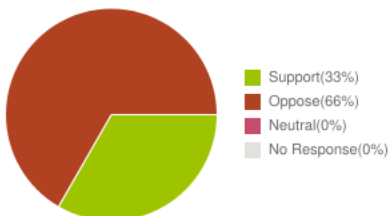
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Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for 7 21-1041 From the Executive Director of Parks providing an information report on the Kegel Alpha Trail Modification. (INFORMATIONAL ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE COMMITTEE)

Overall Sentiment



Jake Newborn

Location:

Submitted At: 9:28am 12-07-21

The Wisconsin Bike Fed and our members strongly urge the board to uphold their previous votes against the policy changes meant to improve the Alpha trails.

We applaud the Milwaukee County Board for its reasonable approach to the issue for demonstrating and trust in the Milwaukee County Parks Department. The Parks Department should be commended for its work balancing protection and preservation of our parks with its mission to create parks for all in Milwaukee County to enjoy, and doing so with limited resources.

One item that this debate has brought to light is that the County has not had an opportunity to update its Trails Plan since 2007. Given the increase in popularity of trail use and mountain biking, and the positive impact this sport has on youth, the Bike Fed believes it is past time to renew this critical plan to ensure there is greater access to trails throughout the County for all citizens of Milwaukee County. We would be happy to assist the County and all stakeholders in this effort.

Dana Gindt

Location:

Submitted At: 8:36am 12-07-21

The expansion of the mountain bike trail in Mangan Woods warrants more evaluation and County Board input into the agreement the parks department has with the mountain bike group. The Judiciary Committee on 12/2/21 recommended an amendment to Chapter 13 regarding affiliation / friends group agreements with the Parks Department requiring County Board approval. This expansion of the mountain bike trail in this old growth forest is part of a partnership agreement created by the Parks Department without any input from the County Board. This agreement and actions to further privatize a public park to benefit a tiny portion of the population of Milwaukee County needs to be examined. The statement in the report that this trail is not any closer to homes is manipulative. Please review the Milwaukee County MOUNTAIN bike trail maps. The location of this proposed mountain bike trail is immediately abutting residential homes. The other County mountain bike trails are separated from residential homes by a river, railroad, highway or road. That is not the case here. The quiet enjoyment of bird watching and serenity of this park will be further disrupted. The privacy and seclusion of the homes abutting this proposed revised trail will be negatively impacted.

There was a lot of media coverage on this topic and public input this Spring. Were the neighbors notified of the revised trail? I doubt it, they were not notified of the "public meeting" that did not allow public comment. Was the Village of Greendale involved in this process? Mangan Woods is located in the Village of Greendale. Were those citizens involved or even aware of the modification to this park in their municipality? The Parks department has issues with managing agreements going back to 2004 as indicated in the 2006 audit of parks, and same issue reinforced in the 2019 audit of parks agreements and even further highlighted in the 2021 audit of the Rock Sports complex agreement. Given the history of contractual issues with the Parks Department agreements and leases (going back nearly 20 years) this expansion of the trail requires detailed, unbiased evaluation. These trails connect to the Rock sports complex in 5 locations. It is reported that the Rock has not followed the contracts with the County including financial payments. This item regarding the mountain bike trails warrants additional information and review. The "partnership" with the mountain bike group falls under the Chapter 13 proposed amendment of having the County Board input on these agreements.

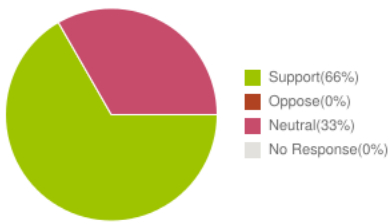
Andy Kleist

Location:

Submitted At: 8:22am 12-07-21

As a County resident who lives near Mangan Woods and hikes there, I do not support the County moving ahead with expanded mountain biking trails. The abundance of articles written and participation by the public and bikers in County meetings this past spring shows that these significant changes to this park are an important topic. Given all the controversy and concerns of neighbors and supervisors, there presently is the opportunity for a deeper evaluation of this location and the partnership with the mountain bike group. Clearly there are some independent experts that have expressed concerns and issues with this significant change to Mangan Woods. The question should not be if this proposed mountain bike trail is "closer" to residential homes, but is it disruptive to the citizens and the natural resources? Or the property values or depression of the value of this park to the vast majority of users? With more thoughtful and careful research, you will find that the answer is yes, it is disruptive and should not move forward without more thoughtful planning than just more bike trails that will clearly support the two businesses that abutt this property, The Rock and Wheel and Sprocket. I ask that this agenda item please be laid over for more information to be presented to the committee regarding concerns, issues, and a deeper evaluation for the long-term use of these woods.

Overall Sentiment



Andrew Stern

Location:

Submitted At: 8:30am 12-07-21

I strongly support the restoration and preservation of The Mitchell Park Domes. The Domes are an architectural treasure and have been an iconic part of Milwaukee's skyline for generations. The Task Force report provided an excellent framework for how to preserve The Domes and activate the under-utilized Mitchell Park. Task Force recommendations will provide for economic opportunities, increased programming, educational opportunities, and increased tourism while maintaining The Domes structures. Please move forward with a preservation solution for the Mitchell Park Domes.

Peter Zanghi

Location:

Submitted At: 6:03pm 12-06-21

Dear County Parks Committee,

I am writing to express my support for finding a long-term preservation solution for the Mitchell Park Domes. The current state of the Domes offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make a significant investment in a regional amenity that is located not downtown, but in an underserved, ethnically diverse neighborhood. Reinvesting in the Mitchell Park Domes is not only the equitable choice; it's also the environmentally and economically responsible choice. Demolishing the Domes would cost taxpayers millions of dollars and would result in the existing structure being sent to a landfill. It would take many decades for a new building to offset the CO2 emissions generated by demolition and replacement. Conversely, the existing Domes could be retrofitted with energy-efficient materials at a cost below what it would cost to replace the Domes and with far greater CO2 reduction benefits.

The Domes, and the entire parks system at large, must be viewed as public amenities and not businesses that need to generate self-sustaining revenue to be viable. I am sensitive to the budget constraints faced by the Parks Department and Milwaukee County at large. This is a project that will likely require some sort of public-private partnership, and I encourage the County to take a collaborative approach and think big as it pursues a restoration and enhancement of the Domes. I appreciate your commitment to ensuring that this beloved Milwaukee icon receives the investment it needs to serve our community for generations to come.

Thank you,

Peter Zanghi
2862 N 55th St
Milwaukee, WI
53210

Jeremy Ebersole

Location:

Submitted At: 3:45pm 12-06-21

My name is Jeremy Ebersole, and I am Executive Director of the Milwaukee Preservation Alliance, partners with the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the Save Our Domes campaign. I first want to thank the members of the Domes Project Team for the important work you've been doing to move forward on a long term solution for the Domes and to the Committee members for your attention to the future of this beloved landmark.

While I'm excited by the forward motion, I want to emphasize the importance of moving forward toward a solution that recognizes the important place the Domes has in the community and preserves this important community asset for future generations, as has been the consistent will of Milwaukee County residents. The work of the Domes Task Force, completed in 2019, presents a possible vision for how to accomplish this. As the group's recommendations are vetted, we urge the Board to consider the years of hard work and public input that went into the Task Force's ultimate vision - one that strongly recommends preservation, suggests possible funding mechanisms, and presents a creative vision for a sustainable, community-focused park.

There are certainly challenges with funding the Domes, but we have to dwell in the world of possibility and not be shackled by notions of what we can't do. In considering costs, we can't just focus on the challenges, but must consider the benefits that would occur if a way forward for not only the Domes structures, but also for Mitchell Park, is developed. If we view the Domes as the irreplaceable asset they are, we can work together to develop creative ways forward. Projects like the restoration of the Domes have been accomplished with wildly successful results in cities all across the country in ways that bring real value and benefit to the community. In Milwaukee we are every bit as creative, as hardworking, as collaborative as any other city, and I truly believe that if we commit to the long term preservation solution that residents want, we can save this icon that means so much to so many and make it even better for future generations.

We also cannot forget the cost of doing nothing. Without investment, the Domes will suffer from demolition by neglect. The most recent suggested cost of demolition was \$15M. Studies commissioned by the County show the Domes' concrete is in good shape and that the cost of reglazing is roughly \$20M. A preservation solution would also likely allow for Historic Tax Credits to cover up to 40% of Qualified Rehabilitation Expenses on the project.

Moreover, investment in Mitchell Park as envisioned by the Task Force explicitly meets the County's vision of being the healthiest County in Wisconsin by achieving racial equity by investing directly in the health outcomes of a disinvested community.

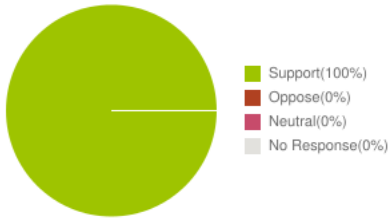
Looking specifically at the report and timeline provided, we'd also request that planned public engagement be continual, robust, and meaningful. The public deserves to have a true say in the future of this public asset and community treasure. The current timeframe for public engagement may not allow for this, as it is scheduled during a time when supervisors will be actively campaigning and will be limited by law in their ability to communicate with constituents. We would request more details on the specifics of what public engagement will look like and how the public's views will be shared publicly and integrated into the decision making process.

Additionally, we would suggest that more regular updates to the Board would be appropriate so both the Board and the public are able to stay best informed on progress.

Finally, we'd like to ask about the timing of the completion of phase 2 of the glazing study. Would this work removing a portion of the glazing and likely closing the Domes be possible during the Domes' high season and a period of potentially challenging weather conditions?

Thank you as always for your work and consideration.

Overall Sentiment



David Cohn

Location:

Submitted At: 9:11am 12-06-21

Thank you to the Parks' staff for putting together the informational report on the existing conditions and potential future improvements at Noyes Park. We are looking forward to continuing conversations with Milwaukee County Parks, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors and the Parks, Energy and Environment Committee about our future at Noyes Park. We are committed to being a partner in addressing the challenges facing the park and helping to ensure it remains a vibrant community asset for years to come.

David Cohn

Executive Director

First Tee — Southeast Wisconsin