

Committee on Parks and Culture on 2022-12-06 9:00 AM - REVISION #1
Please note the addition of Item 2, File No. 22-1190, which will not be considered prior to 11:00 a.m.

HYBRID MEETING
This meeting will be held in Room 203-R, and will be live-streamed on
Meeting Time: 12-06-22 09:00

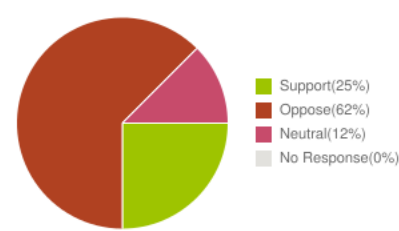
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Committee on Parks and Culture on 2022-12-06 9:00 AM - REVISION #1 Please note the addition of Item 2, File No. 22-1190, which will not be considered prior to 11:00 a.m.	12-06-22 09:00	30	16	4	10	2
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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



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HYBRID MEETING

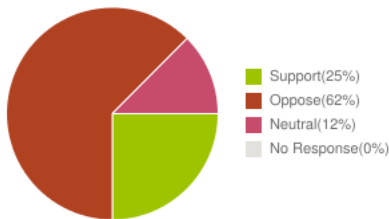
This meeting will be held in Room 203-R, and will be live-streamed on 12-06-22 09:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
1 22-1184 A resolution rescinding the policy position adopted in File No.16-200 and recognizing a new County policy to expand the scope of strategic planning associated with the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory (the Domes) to enable the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors to consider all options for the future of the Domes	15	3	10	2
6 22-1109 From the Executive Director of Milwaukee of County Parks, requesting authorization to amend its lease with the Milwaukee Kickers Soccer Club, Inc., to remove parking rights and any reference to the property located at 7201 W. Good Hope Road.	1	1	0	0

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

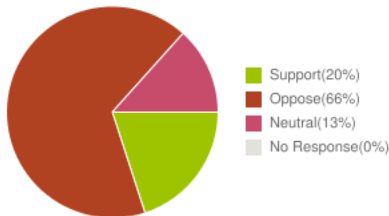
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Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for 1 22-1184 A resolution rescinding the policy position adopted in File No.16-200 and recognizing a new County policy to expand the scope of strategic planning associated with the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory (the Domes) to enable the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors to consider all options for the future of the Domes

Overall Sentiment



MP Besasie

Location:
Submitted At: 11:08am 12-06-22

I support exploring paths forward, but rescinding the County's established policy of preservation is a dangerous and unfounded step and is not necessary to explore all options. Further, the resolution as written does not require the expertise of any engineers familiar with older buildings nor any participation from the County Board or public.

I believe the public's consistent support of preservation, numerous studies showing the long term viability of preservation, and cost-reducing opportunities like Historic Tax Credits and partnership-based conservancy models must be thoughtfully considered while developing options for a way forward. A more thoughtful approach would be to hold this resolution until it can be crafted to include additional provisions that provide for the information the Board needs to make informed decisions without rescinding current policy unnecessarily.

Randall Welniak

Location:

Submitted At: 8:53am 12-06-22

The Domes are part of Milwaukee's identity and have to be preserved.

Dn McCarthy

Location:

Submitted At: 8:15am 12-06-22

Oppose: 22-1184/A resolution rescinding the policy position adopted in File No.16-200

I am writing today to state my support for the Mitchell Park Domes and to strongly urge you to pursue a path forward that preserves this Milwaukee treasure. The Domes are unique in the world!

This resolution as currently written would rescind the established County policy for preservation when there is absolutely no reason to do so. The Domes Task Force did consider the demolition option with several other options presented by ConsultEcon. The cost of \$10M to \$15M to demolish the building, and the potential complete loss of Milwaukee's horticultural conservancy, were reasons for members of the Task Force to reject the demolition or "do nothing" option. In addition, ConsultEcon presented reasons for, and potential paths forward, welcomed by Domes Task Force members.

Following years of studies and reports, the time is long overdue to take action steps that will secure a long term preservation solution for the Domes, and not return to a policy that could erase a community landmark. It's imperative to set a path forward that explores how partnerships can be developed, funding can be secured, and restoration can begin.

The County, after wholly rejecting most if not all of the great work done by the county board appointed Domes Task Force, and ignoring information from many great consultant reports presented to the Domes Task Force, has failed to act in any positive way in the last six years.

Multiple existing studies have indicated that the public overwhelmingly does not want demolition. Certainly, I absolutely do not support any solution for the Domes that would demolish this incredible place. The Domes Task Force plan, the 2017 WJE study, and the 2019 glazing and concrete studies have all shown that the Domes can be preserved in a way that will last for decades and that this can be accomplished for less money than demolition and new construction. Partnerships, fundraising, and Historic Tax Credits are the way forward and can relieve significant financial burden from the County.

Please support preservation of the Domes. Please urge County Executive Crowley to direct his department to respond to the Board's current policy to pursue preservation and restoration of the Mitchell Park Domes. The development of a plan should include immediate action, be transparent and incorporate public input.

I do not support spending millions to demolish this important landmark. Many other municipalities have found ways to restore and reuse important landmarks. Generally the course has not been easy or uncomplicated. It took the will of those in charge to find the way.

Surely Milwaukee County can be as innovative and creative as other communities.

Please move forward with a vision that preserves the Domes as part of a revitalized, inclusive Mitchell Park.

Thank you for your service and consideration.
Dawn McCarthy
3rd District
Milwaukee County

Julia Ausloos-Bedinger

Location:
Submitted At: 7:18pm 12-05-22

I ask that my elected officials do NOT vote to rescind the current policy position adopted in File No. 16-200, because Demolition should NOT be considered an option for the Domes. The Domes are an important landmark and symbol of our county/city, and by allowing them to be demolished, or even neglected to the point where demolition seems a viable option, we have failed our children and the future generations of our community!

In the words of Jane Jacobs, "We expect too much of new buildings, and too little of ourselves." Demolition of the Domes and construction of a new building will NOT solve the problems we face today. In 50 years from now, will we be in the same budget crisis and dilemma that we face today: demolition vs. rehabilitation. Our planet and our community cannot withstand the continual neglect and oversight of our public resources by our elected officials. We have a responsibility to be good stewards of our community, our state and our world by protecting what we have today, not destroy what we have to build something new in its place.

Please listen to your community and your constituents, and vote NO in rescinding the County's current policy of preservation and repair of the Domes.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I appreciate your service.

Julia Ausloos-Bedinger
Bay View Resident of Milwaukee

Scott Jentsch

Location:
Submitted At: 5:57pm 12-05-22

We last visited the Domes earlier this year, when we took some wonderful photos for our daughter's Prom. At that time of year, it was one of the few locations that we could visit and have photos with scenic surroundings. The photos turned out wonderfully, and we were glad to have had the Domes as a local venue choice. Our visits to the Domes have always been enjoyable, and Milwaukee is fortunate to have such a resource.

As the condition of the Domes is constantly in question, and the necessary actions by the County to preserve them seems to be stuck in neutral, I am struck by the fact that we have such a great local amenity but there is such a lack of recognition and appreciation in keeping that amenity in good condition. I understand that funds are always restricted and that difficult decisions need to be made, which is why I'm contacting you today.

I suggest that, instead of coming at the issue of caring for the Domes from a position of weakness, you approach it from a position of strength. Milwaukee has some wonderful attractions and destinations that make the city unique and valuable not only for the people that live in the metropolitan area and beyond, but also for attracting tourism in the form of distant vacationers as well as convention attendees. The upcoming Milwaukee Public Museum will work very well with places like the Art Museum and other locations as items of interest when Milwaukee is considered as a destination, and the Domes could very easily be a part of that, if the County were to recognize their value accordingly.

Our visit to take Prom photos made me wish that we could have held the Prom dance there as well. It seems to be that there is enough room for a venue that could host large gatherings for meals and dances. Combining the Domes with such a large-group venue would draw more people, which should increase usage of the Domes and strengthen the position of the Domes as a resource to be used to advantage instead of treating it like it is an anchor that is weighing you down. Engaged couples are always looking for wedding venues. I've had to travel as far as Watertown because the couple was not able to find anything closer, so there is likely a demand present that the county could exploit. Mothers Day brunch, much like the Boerner Botanical Gardens, is another obvious

possibility. Large conventions are always looking for events at night, and chartering a few buses from the hotel/convention center out to the Domes for an evening of drinks and entertainment in a truly unique location would help Milwaukee stand out when all the possible cities are being considered.

This is such an obvious idea that I can't imagine that someone hasn't thought of it already. Perhaps it has been considered and there are good reasons that it shouldn't be done, but I urge you to think what the Domes could be and how they can be leveraged to be an asset instead of just looking at them as a liability. Come at the issue from a position of strength, and you will see more opportunities and ways to make it successful. If you approach it from a position of weakness, all you're going to see are reasons to tear them down and the community, the tourism-related businesses, and everyone that could benefit from a rejuvenated Domes venue, will suffer.

Dan Brophy

Location:

Submitted At: 4:35pm 12-05-22

TLDR: Ensure that OSBP can evaluate ALL possible future plans for the Domes, including transferring ownership from the county to a private or nonprofit owner. The Domes' value and future need not start and end with Milwaukee County.

Supervisors, as you consider this proposal, please also consider that the options present in 22-1184 are not comprehensive. The resolution does not specify that OSBP to evaluate the viability of the county selling part of or the entirety of its ownership in the Domes and its horticultural collection. It's evident that the county cannot continue to fund the Domes, including the necessary repairs to the structure, under the crushing financial weight of decreasing shared revenue payments and minimal additional revenue streams. In light of the county's strained finances, the Board should consider options that, above all, preserve the horticultural assets contained in the Domes while relieving the county of the financial burden associated with ownership of the Domes and its plant collection. If the county wants to prioritize funding for critical public infrastructure (notably, MCTS and HHS), as it should, that does not require the county to demolish the city/county's only major horticultural attraction. Even if you don't like plants or care about the value of access to natural environments in urban spaces, consider the embarrassing, negative press that would result from the Board and CEX choosing to demolish the Domes rather than choosing to relieve itself of ownership - even if that means entrusting a once-public asset in the hands of private ownership.

The county has a set of bad choices to choose from in the coming years: Cut what to keep what? If the Domes are not a priority for the Board, use this as an opportunity to chart a path for divesting the county from valuable, but non-mission-critical, assets. Surely the Domes are not the only valued public asset that the county will have to, in short time, decide whether to cut, keep/renovate, or sell. Do I want the Domes or its plant collection to be privately owned? Not at all. But if the choices are a) demolition and selling the plant collection to a private entity with no guarantee of future public access for MKE residents or b) selling the structure and/or the collection to a private or nonprofit that will allow continued access to the plants, any sane MKE resident will choose option b). For those who decry private or nonprofit ownership of the Domes, consider whether you prefer the legacy of demolisher or seller, the latter of which would be credited with saving a beloved community asset in the face of the county's daunting financial future.

Emily Webster

Location:

Submitted At: 3:25pm 12-05-22

As a tax paying member of the Milwaukee community, and a senior student studying biology with plants as a major interest, I support this motion to repeal a guarantee of the repair of the domes. I'm very passionate about plants and the environmental education that the domes provide, but an updated, state of the art botanical facility in a normal building shape could be created with the insane costs of repairing the domes. A dome is a stupid shape for a building, quite frankly, and makes it extremely expensive and difficult to repair. The domes facilities are also extremely outdated. I want my tax dollars to go to building a facility that represents the level of technology we have today, and is more on par with other nearby botanic facilities such as the Chicago Botanical Gardens. Not pour more money into repairing an outdated facility just because people are feeling nostalgic. Not to mention that the Milwaukee parks and transit systems are really really hurting right now, and those are extremely vital services that should be prioritized over a nostalgia project. We can do better than the domes.

Shrioni Hunnel

Location:

Submitted At: 12:55pm 12-05-22

I support a plan to preserve the Domes

sarah marsom

Location:

Submitted At: 12:55pm 12-05-22

Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory (the Domes) are a valuable part of Milwaukee's cultural legacy - they are a place for people to learn, to celebrate holidays, to create memories, and they are a source for tourism. The domes have been used in imagery depicting the city since the Domes were constructed - you can find them on shirts, in artwork, on cups, and more. To lose the Domes would be to lose an important part of the city's identity as well as to lose nationally architecturally significant structures. The Domes unique design ensures it is a memorable destination for all. It is important for File No. 16-200 to be retained, because it ensures demolition is not considered as the County considers the future of the Domes. Demolition should not be considered for a structure as significant as the Domes.

Ashlee Schmidt

Location:

Submitted At: 11:43am 12-05-22

The Milwaukee Domes have been a staple of our community for nearly 60 years. It is unequalled in its beauty and for providing each of us with the opportunity to explore the wonders of nature year round.

My family visits the Domes several times a month, and I can personally attest to the importance of this unique landmark to myself and my neighbors. My children love watching the changes to the vast collection of plant life that occurs with each new season. They have discovered a wealth of knowledge through the countless rotating exhibits in the learning center, and have grown to behold the beauty of the various landscapes represented in the Domes with wonder and amazement. We look forward to each visit with great eagerness.

We often share our visits with friends and family when they are in town, and the Domes trip is always a major highlight for each of them. I cannot fathom the possibility of no longer having the opportunity to share this beloved site with friends.

I strongly urge you not to support any resolution that includes rescinding this policy. All options for the future of the Domes can be explored without rescinding the existing policy. Milwaukee is better than this! We can and must do better to move forward with a vision of preservation. Demolition cannot be an option. How can we seriously consider robbing our community of this incredible Milwaukee treasure?

We must move forward with a vision that preserves the Domes as part of a revitalized, inclusive Mitchell Park. Please do not support any resolution rescinding County policy to pursue repair of the Domes.

Yours respectfully,
Ashlee Schmidt

Justin Miller

Location:

Submitted At: 10:52am 12-05-22

On behalf of Docomomo US/Chicago, I am writing to share our support for the Mitchell Park Domes. The Domes are a nationally recognized landmark in Milwaukee, and as advocates for modern architecture and design, Docomomo US/Chicago urges you not to rescind your current policy position.

While we support exploring paths forward, rescinding the County's established policy of preservation is a dangerous and unfounded step and is not necessary to explore all options. Further, the resolution as written does not require the expertise of any engineers familiar with older buildings nor any participation from the County Board or public.

All options for the future of the Domes can be explored without rescinding the existing policy. We believe the public's consistent support of preservation, numerous studies showing the long term viability of preservation, and cost reducing opportunities like Historic Tax Credits and partnership-based conservancy models must be thoughtfully considered while developing options for a way forward. A more thoughtful approach would be to hold this resolution until it can be crafted to include additional provisions that provide for the information the Board needs to make informed decisions without rescinding current policy unnecessarily.

As members of the historic preservation community, Docomomo US/Chicago supports preserving the Domes and opposes any measures leading to the alteration or demolition of these iconic Milwaukee landmarks. We hope you will move forward with a vision that preserves the Domes as part of a revitalized, inclusive Mitchell Park. Please do not support any resolution rescinding County policy to pursue repair of the Domes.

Thank you for your service and consideration.

Justin Miller
Chair, Board of Directors
Docomomo US/Chicago

Aaron Borngraber

Location:
Submitted At: 10:47am 12-05-22

Don't Demolish Our Domes!

Margaret Butler

Location:
Submitted At: 10:37am 12-05-22

The Domes are an important part of Milwaukee. They provide community, support tourism, are a natural space in an urban landscape—which is especially needed during the long, cold winter months—and they bring people from the suburbs into the city of Milwaukee. Rescinding the current policy of preservation is unnecessary for a path forward and the money needed to explore options outside of preservation and restoration would be better spent improving other Milwaukee County Parks.

Ashley Hietpas

Location:
Submitted At: 6:26am 12-05-22

This is a cowardly and short sighted move. This is a one of a kind landmark that is incredibly vital to this community. Demolition should NEVER be an option. We need to pursue all funding avenues to start repairs now.

Jeremy Ebersole

Location:
Submitted At: 7:51pm 12-01-22

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you again and comment on this extremely important matter. I'm Jeremy Ebersole, and I am as always privileged to serve as Executive Director of the Milwaukee Preservation Alliance. While we support action toward the development of a comprehensive plan for the future of Mitchell Park and the Domes, I'm urging the committee today to hold a vote on this resolution until amendments can be added that would provide the means for the County Board to receive the full breadth of information necessary to make the most informed decision about the future of one of the region's most beloved landmarks.

First and most importantly, it is not necessary for the County's established policy of pursuing preservation to be explicitly rescinded in order for all options to be considered. To do so would negate the years of work that have gone into exploring solutions, from the 2017 WJE report to the 2019 glazing and concrete studies, all of which determined that the Domes can be restored for decades of additional life.

Further, any study of what is possible with the physical structure of the Domes must require the services of qualified contractors with proven experience in understanding how older buildings function. A perfect example of this necessity was shown at the Ravine Road Bridge, where contractors with the right skill set were brought in

and found efficiencies that were able to save the iconic structure for a fraction of the cost of what was proposed by earlier contractors, saving the County significant money.

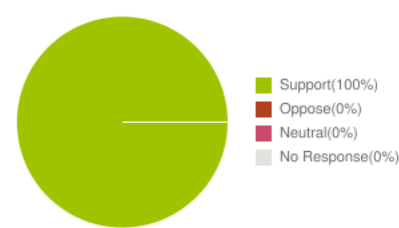
Finally, I further encourage the public’s voice to be taken into consideration both in today’s decision and in determining the future of the Domes. Every study done by every entity, not just preservation groups like ours, have shown overwhelming support for preserving the Domes. The voice of constituents deserves to be heard and heeded.

We at MPA have been working as a resource for the Domes’ future for 7 years now and want to see forward motion as much as anyone, but rescinding County policy of fulfilling the community’s desire for a preservation solution and not involving the necessary expertise in planning is a step in the wrong direction. I hope that you will hold this resolution until it can be amended to require the information necessary for the board to make the most informed decision.

Thank you for your service and your consideration.

Agenda Item: eComments for 6 22-1109 From the Executive Director of Milwaukee of County Parks, requesting authorization to amend its lease with the Milwaukee Kickers Soccer Club, Inc., to remove parking rights and any reference to the property located at 7201 W. Good Hope Road.

Overall Sentiment



Jason Haas

Location:
Submitted At: 12:45pm 12-05-22

As a former supervisor who worked on this project, I think it will be best for the larger community, and I support its adoption.