



CHRIS ABELE, MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
JOHN DARGLE, JR., DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

August 31, 2016

TO: Milwaukee County Parks Committee Members

FROM: John Dargle, Jr., Director

SUBJECT: Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory Update (INFO) – September 2016

Existing capital project WP 49001 – Mitchell Park Domes is currently in progress. This report provides an update on the required protective netting system and long range planning efforts.

Per our contract documents and construction start dates for the installation of the safety mesh, the Tropical Domes contract ends September 23rd (100 days) and the Arid contract ends October 28th (80 days). Following the completion of the installation of the safety mesh in all three domes, we will plan a grand re-opening during the month of November.

On August 18, 2016, pursuant to adopted policy File No. 16-200, Chairman Lipscomb appointed members of the Milwaukee County Task Force on the Mitchell Park Conservatory (attachments). Our plan is to preserve and protect the Conservatory's legacy through a robust community planning process with active public involvement and ongoing respect for the history and unique heritage of the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory. In anticipation of a future Task Force meeting, we scheduled a preliminary meeting on September 9, 2016, with the Chair of the County Board's Committee on Parks, Energy, and Environment, Supervisor Jason Haas, and the Chair of the Domes Task Force, William H. Lynch. As discussed, our anticipated long range planning process will include:

- Phase One: Exploring Options (through summer into fall)
 - Reach out across the community for ideas and input
 - In person meetings with key stakeholder/constituent groups
 - Town hall meetings for public
 - Online channel
 - All options on the table
 - Outcome: Task Force to narrow one to three options for further study
 - Regular Board updates
- Phase Two: Choosing Direction (fall into winter)
 - Task Force to study one to three options for feasibility, cost, etc.
 - Further community vetting and input
 - Regular Board updates
 - Outcome: RFI / RFP to develop specific plan
- Phase Three: Planning for the Future (2017)
 - Detailed proposal, planning and budget
 - Outcome: Proposal to CEX and County Board



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