May 13, 2013

5:00 p.m.

**Meeting Minutes for the May 9, 2013 Metro and Urban Parks Ad Hoc Committee**

**Topic:** Subcommittee report. Discussion of sound levels from Welcome to Rockville Festival.

**Location:** City Council Conference Room A, 4th Floor City Hall.

**In Attendance:** CM E. Denise Lee, CM Don Redman, CM Lori Boyer; CM Dr. Johnny Gaffney; CM Bill Gulliford, Steve Pace, EQD; Janice Billy, CAO; Richard Robinson, EQD; Edward Suggs, EDA At-Large District 1; Jeff Clements, Council Research; Paige Johnston, OGC; Jennifer Hewett-Apperson, DVI; Les Targonski, The Big Ticket; Monica Landeros, PAO Public Works; David Garber, Crazy Dave’s Music; Brian Magazu, MAD Consulting Group; Mike Yokan, Promoter; Tonisha Gaines, COJ Special Events; Kelley Boree, COJ Parks and Recreation; Max Marbut, Dailey Record; Scott Wilson, ECA District 4; Kevin Meerschaert, WJCT; James Richardson, COJ- EPB; Daryl Joseph, COJ Parks & Recreation; Jim Bailey, DIA; and Dan Macdonald, ECA District 8.

The meeting was convened by Chair E. Denise Lee at 11:03 a.m.

The minutes of the April 25 meeting were accepted.

The Subcommittee did not meet because it was unable to get experts to discuss sound containment in Metropolitan Park. A group of local sound professionals have volunteered their expertise to the Subcommittee. A meeting has been set for Wednesday May 15 at 4 p.m. in City Council Conference Room A.

Paige Johnston discussed her continued attempts to get documentation from the National Park Service concerning its alleged restriction allowing only 12 ticketed events per year in the park. She said the park service is looking into stored documents that provided for the construction of Metropolitan Park to find if this restriction exists. She said this process may take 2 or 3 more weeks.

Steve Pace presented the preliminary findings made at nine testing sites during the April 27 and 28 Welcome to Rockville Festival at Metropolitan Park. He began by again reminding the committee that the EQD is a regulatory agency and not a sound engineering firm. He went through his reports (attached to these minutes) showing how stages were configured for the event and where monitoring took place. He also described the methodology by which his team gathered sound samples.

In short, sound levels in the neighborhoods stayed within legal levels. The loudest location was Site 5 - East of 1016 Holmesdale Road - provided maximum sound levels of 70 dBA on April 27 and 62 dBA on April 28. In reports, Pace showed that at times the ambient noise at the testing locations such as birds, frogs and unrelated noise caused the highest readings as compared to the sound from the concert.

There was a brief discussion of low frequency sounds that are felt rather than heard. These are caused by bass tones.

Discussion about the May 11 and 12 Funkfest determined that this event was going to use only the main Metropolitan Park stage. There was a discussion of monitoring strategy. Chair Lee expressed a concern there were not enough monitoring personnel or equipment necessary to measure the low frequency tones. She asked that either emergency legislation or procurement from the Metropolitan Park Trust Fund be used to pay for any extra equipment or salaries needed to continue the monitoring for this event.

Both Chair Lee and CM Boyer praised Pace and his staff for the work that went into the preliminary report. CM Boyer made a motion that a letter of commendation be placed in the employees’ personnel files thanking and praising their work The motion carried 3-0 (CM Lee, CM Boyer and CM Redman voting yes. CM Gulliford and CM Gaffney excused themselves earlier due to prior commitments.)

Chair Lee and CM Redman thanked the promoters for their spirit of cooperation to make the event successful and less impactful on neighborhoods near the park and across the river from the park.

Mike Yokan, one of the Welcome to Rockville promoters, said it cost an additional $12,000-$15,000 to configure stages as to not disturb neighbors. He also said the event brought $55,000 in union wages and another $25,000 in catering money into the local economy as examples of the economic impact of the event.

Jim Bailey of the Downtown Investment Authority also congratulated the promoters for bringing an event to downtown that had a positive impact on the area.

In New Business, CM Boyer spoke of how in the May 6 Rules committee it had been discussed that the Ad Hoc committee should expand its scope to resolve the establishment of a downtown entertainment district. She offered documents (included in this minutes package) that illustrated conflicts in the city code concerning downtown entertainment districts.

Chair Lee asked that a letter be written to Council President Bishop asking that this become part of the committee’s charge. She expected that a new Council President would have to extend the Ad Hoc Committee to complete this work.

As was the case with the Hemming Plaza Ad Hoc Committee, both CM Redman and Chair Lee agreed that findings be turned over to the DIA for implementation.

The next Ad Hoc Metropolitan Park and Urban Parks Committee meeting will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday May 23rd in City Council Conference Room A on the 4th Floor of City Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Minutes compiled by Dan Macdonald, ECA District 8.

Included:

 Minutes

 Attendance Sheet

 Meeting Notice

 Agenda

 Welcome to Rockville Noise Survey

 Entertainment Zone Ordinance conflicts

 Audio CD of meeting