



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Draft COMMUNITY GARDENS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

5:00 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 108 (City-County Building)

Please contact Lisa Olmsted at the Mayor's Office @ 266-4611 by 4:00 PM on Monday, February 23, 2009, if you will not be able to attend the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 8 -

Monya A. Choudhury; Andre Scaife; Nan Fey; Betty Chewning; Alice K. Anderson; Mai Chong Lor; Mary Malischke and Joe Mathers

Absent: 2 -

Linda F. Hoskins and Renee E Stellpflug

Excused: 1 -

John B. Bell

Others present were Nancy Dungan and Kate Sanoretto

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were approved with the correction that Andre Scaife was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kate Sandretto (2130 East Dayton, kate.sandretto@gmail.com): Noting the waiting lists at Troy and Atwood gardens, she has been looking for additional sites for community gardens in her Emerson East Neighborhood. She requested help in resolving some issues about whether garden plots can be created at Demetral Field, which is a former landfill site, and will provide background information on the proposal she has made, the agencies and departments she has contacted, and the current status of her inquiries to the committee. When this information has been received, the issue will be put on the Committee's agenda for discussion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

1. May Meeting Quorum Check: The meeting scheduled for May 26th is on the day after the Memorial Day Holiday. The committee was polled for their availability that week; Chewning, Lor, Malischke, Choudhury and Fey all indicated they could be present (which would be exactly the number required for quorum), Anderson and possibly Malischke will be absent.

2. **Update on Urban Agriculture and Zoning Code Rewrite Process:** Greg Rosenberg of the Madison Community Land Trust, who is leading this effort, was prepared make this presentation in January but the committee was not able to meet. Rosenberg was not available to return to the committee today, so Mathers and Fey provided the update. There is a group of highly knowledgeable people, including Mathers and Anderson from CGC, that has been working on urban agriculture issues, with the goal of drafting an ordinance to permit operations such as Troy Gardens within the city. When they have language to propose, they will bring this to the Community Gardens Committee (ideally in March, but more likely in April) for forwarding on to the Zoning Code Rewrite Advisory Committee, City staff, and the consultants who are drafting the code. The working group has also requested that the Community Gardens Committee consider broadening its scope to urban agriculture, a topic that will be taken up at a later date and could depend on what changes are made in the zoning code.

REGULAR BUSINESS - REPORTS

1. [08272](#) Garden/CAC Reports

1. Garden/CAC Reports: Hammersley – which has 20 plots, is hoping to have an “opening day” party in May, perhaps complete with a team of Amish-trained draft horses. Marlborough – has been wondering whether there will be increased demand for plots after the closing of the Cub Food Store. Sheboygan – discussions are ongoing, but there is currently no buyer for the land, so no progress on development of the site. CAC is in the process of hiring Ben Summers’ replacement, and Janet Parker returns to work on March 2nd.
2. [08281](#) Parks Update

Nothing to report.
3. [08282](#) Planning Update

See “New Business” item concerning the Urban Agriculture working group and its interface with the Zoning Code Rewrite.
4. [08283](#) New Garden Fund

The sole application comes from the Wisconsin Youth Company, proposing permaculture, and a teaching program, so raises questions about where/whether it fits with the mission of the fund to establish new community gardens. The committee will meet again to discuss the issues.
5. [09055](#) Garden Plot Fees

The working group did not meet in February.

COMMUNICATIONS

The letter dated February 16, 2009 re: Marlborough. Motion made by Anderson to refer to the Parks Commission, seconded by Choudhury; passed by acclimation.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn was made by Alice Anderson and seconded by Maichong Lor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.