



City of Madison

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

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

5:00 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room LL-110 (Madison Municipal Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order by co-chair Jill Schneider at 5:08pm

Present: 7 - Steve King; Madelyn D. Leopold; Aislynn H.C. Miller; Annette M. Nekola;
Sharon Lezberg; Nan Fey and Jill Schneider

OTHERS PRESENT

Nancy Dungan (CGBG), George Reistad (Food Policy Coordinator). Guests:
Cindy Statz and Pat Soderholm from Sheboygan/Rennebohm Community
Garden, Greg Rosenberg (former member of the committee).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes approved unanimous without corrections. Motion by Fey, seconded by
Lezberg. King abstained because he hadn't attended the 7/19 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS44477

Sheboygan Gardens Update September 2016

Attachments: [SACG Relocation to Rennebohm Park - Thank You.pdf](#)
[CGC thank you.pdf](#)

Garden leader Cindy Statz passed out a letter of thanks to the Community Gardens Committee and narrated a slide presentation depicting the progress of the garden since its approval in early spring. A copy of the presentation is attached. Since approving the location in Rennebohm Park, approvals have been granted for fencing and the use of a hose to fill the garden's tank until a permanent water system has been installed; Parks has approved the installation of a connection from within a manhole near the shelter, but still needs to bid out the work and get it done. Parks required the gardeners to remove certain trees that were on the site, but provided flowers for planting around the official park sign and in other locations. For future reference, the committee asked for a list of expenses made by the garden during the installation process. There were rounds of applause for City representatives who helped along the way, and from the committee to the gardeners on a job well done this season under difficult conditions. Gardeners have received many compliments on their work from park users during the summer.

George Reistad, attending his first committee meeting since beginning his new position at the end of the summer, reported that the staff team charged with providing a report on additional locations for garden space in the Hill Farms area (Legister 42079) will not meet the October 1st deadline set in the resolution passed by the Common Council on May 15th. Parks staff has asked for certain information from garden leaders, and specific direction on how to proceed with the report. George will work with Alder Steve King to convene a meeting of appropriate staff members from relevant departments to make sure the first phase of this project is completed according to the criteria set forth in the Resolution as soon as possible.

42601

Review Mission of Community Gardens Committee

Attachments: [Community Gardens Committee Ongoing Issues Summary.pdf](#)
[CGC Invitation to Stakeholders March 2016.pdf](#)
[CGC Grids #1 #2 #3 Combined with cover letter 5-13-16.pdf](#)
[Guidance on Recommendation for Future of Community Gardens Committee](#)

The committee discussed a draft memo requesting the Food Policy Council to assume its policy oversight responsibilities. With agreement on several edits to the text, King moved Approval of the Memo and Recommendation, seconded by Nekola and the committee voted unanimously in favor. Fey will work with Reistad and representatives of the Gardens Network to prepare a cover (explanatory) memo to accompany this document to the Food Policy Council for discussion on October 5.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS[44457](#)

Food Policy Council Update September 2016

Transition memo. Work group updates. No formal actions taken. Check-in/group conversation. Noxious weeds-list updates add/remove plants on list. Natural lawns to allow prairie grasses over 8 inches tall. Terrace planting policies revised relating to pollinators. Discussion of possibly creating an urban agriculture work group.

[44458](#)

Parks Update September 2016

Leopold reported on the current status of the “Timeline for Siting Gardens in Parks”, following up on a request made by Fey in preparation for the committee’s 2012-2016 draft Activity Report being prepared with Schneider for consideration by the committee in October. The effort was a response to requests for “edible landscapes” in 2012, and created in an attempt to provide guidance for community groups interested in planting on parkland and process for doing so that would be timely for City staff. The Parks Division considered it a “procedure”, as distinct from a “policy”, to be utilized as a guideline for the process. Since 2013 when this effort began, there have been major changes on the community gardens landscape; beginning in 2015, the Gardens Network has taken the place of CAC and now manages the (formerly New Garden Fund) referenced in the timeline. The next step will be to revisit the document with the Food Policy Coordinator, the Gardens Network and departments that manage city-owned land to establish a timeline that works for everyone.

Leopold also reported that the Parks and Open Space Plan update is in full swing, with surveys of activities in parks (including community gardens) and drafting of a document that will be proposed for adoption in the fall of 2017. The new plan will address the Downtown Plan, and contribute to the Comprehensive Plan that is also being updated in the coming year.

[44459](#)

CDBG Update September 2016

None

[44460](#)

Planning Update September 2016

Follow-up to make sure that Community Gardens are being recognized in plans for new neighborhoods. Some districts have large, unused parks, many which are accessible to water, but the neighborhood associations have no people volunteering.

[44461](#)

Gardens Network/Gardens Coalition Report September 2016

No update. The Garden Operations Team (GOT) has options available. They are creating information sheets on the top ten best/worst plants for various topics with the help of master gardeners to be offered at the summit. They will be touring Epic's employee gardens and campus this Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 9am-12pm. There is still room available.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fey brought to attention that committee member training was coming up and that it was worthwhile to attend even if you have done so in the past, as there is always more to learn.

Miller stated that as of this meeting, Meadowood garden will not be overseen next year. There is not anybody to staff it and the neighborhood has not shown interest. They are slowly starting to put it to sleep. They have had water issues and vandalism problems. Fey suggested bringing the situation to the attention of the NRT, Neighborhood Resource Team to see if they could help. It would be a shame for the parks system to have to reclaim the land.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:07pm by co-chair Schnieder, seconded by all.