



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Meeting Minutes COMMUNITY GARDENS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 27, 2014

5:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Schneider at 5:08 PM. 8 members present.

Present: 8 -

Steve King; Justin O. Markofski; Aislynn H.C. Miller; Annette M. Nekola;
Nan Fey; Danna J. Olsen; Jill Schneider and Melissa Gavin

Absent: 2 -

Madelyn D. Leopold and Mee (Mimi) Vang

Others Present: Nancy Dungan (CDBG)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Fey moved approval of the April 29th minutes subject to corrections. Markofski seconded. Motion passed by a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

Markofski disclosed that he is an employee of Community Ground Works in the Farm Program.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

[32247](#)

Status of Community Gardens Program

Miller reported that the leaders meeting on May 10th went smoothly. Nekola attended the May 15th meeting of Planning Group, provided an update on the garden leaders meeting, and passed around her notes. Schneider reported a good return on the questionnaires given to gardeners; Olsen will check to see if there are more coming. Schneider plans to send a thank you to Steve Maurice at the Multi-Cultural Center.

Fey said the Planning Group was very grateful to the members of the Community Gardens Committee who organized the May 10th gathering, and to the garden leaders who attended for the input they provided. The Transition 2014 Working Group will be meeting on June 4 to review issues identified by gardeners for this season. Fey will be working with colleagues from the Planning Group and Transition Team on letters to garden leaders answering their questions and explaining the current planning process.

Schneider discussed the confusion of garden leaders about where to get compost since Dane County is getting out of composting and it will no longer be offered as of July 1st. The group questioned whether the City will have a compost site. Fey advised garden leaders, if asked, to let people know that they are working on getting information about this and will make it available as soon as possible.

Schneider reported that Dorothy Krause was at the leaders meeting, and suggested a county representative be at the gardens committee meetings. The group discussed this suggestion, and concluded that it would not be appropriate because we are a City of Madison committee.

[31912](#)

New Garden Fund Issues

Nekola reported Leopold was going to follow up with the Parks Foundation. Dungan and Fey will take over this project while Leopold is away.

[31106](#)

Sheboygan Gardens Update

No report. Committee decided to remove this agenda item and put the topic on hold given the overall focus on Community Gardens. Committee will return to it in the future.

[30629](#)

Parks Department Pre-approved List of Improvements at Community Gardens

No report. Committee decided to remove this agenda item and put the topic on hold given the overall focus on Community Gardens. Committee will return to it in the future.

[28453](#)

Garden Leadership for Long-Term Sustainability

No report. Committee decided to remove this agenda item and put the topic on hold given the overall focus on Community Gardens. Committee will return to it in the future.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

[28455](#)

Food Policy Council Update

Fey reported that a Request for Proposals to provide EBT farmer's markets should be ready soon; the program would increase the number of markets at which SNAP (food stamp) benefits can be used. The Food Policy Council also recommended approval of a resolution. "Urging the Congressional Delegation of Wisconsin, U.S. Congress, White House Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other governmental bodies and organizations to support policies and programs that encourage the development of diversified farming practices that promote a healthy, sustainable food production system" to the Common Council.

Ordinances are in place for Edible Landscapes and Terrace Planting; the guidelines aren't quite ready, but City staff have been very helpful. The goal is to provide this information on the City's website, but the group working on this is hoping to find someone willing to pilot a project to test everything out this season.

In preparation for discussions of a site, the Public Market Committee is holding 4 public meetings for community input. The Madison Public Schools have been adding refrigerators and offering more salad bars this spring.

[08281](#)

Parks Update

Dungan suggested Committee weigh in on hiring the new Parks Superintendent. Fey suggested contacting the Mayor's Office, Parks, and Human Resources to express the Committee's hope and expectation that the new Park's Superintendent is open to Community Gardens.

Fey shared that she walked by Brittingham and Shelly Strom was installing a temporary fence to keep bunnies out. Eric Knepp and the Parks Division are looking to put in a water system at Brittingham. Also, \$6,000 has been approved for a decorative gateway to a more permanent fence at the park, to be installed next season.

[18897](#)

CDBG Update

Markofski reported that CAC will not be receiving funds as they are still being held for gardens. Dungan reported that un-used funds for this year will be discussed by the transition group and the planning group for 2015. Dungan shared that Gavin and Susan Reindahl came to speak at a meeting where they connected Gardens with Community Development. Markofski will keep the Committee advised of future opportunities to connect with Community Development.

[14868](#)

Planning Update

King reported that Union Corners may have a place they are considering and that Alder Rummel is pushing for it. A designated area is being discussed as part of the project.

[08283](#)

New Garden Fund

No update.

[15100](#)

Garden Report

Committee discussed whether or not to remove this item from any future meeting agendas. Committee decided to change the name to "Garden Report" for future meetings.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Committee discussed and read aloud a letter of thanks to the CAC. Committee decided to add a CC: to the CDBG Committee Chair to the letter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

King motioned to adjourn at 6:23 PM. Markofski seconded. Motion passed on a voice vote.