



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft COMMUNITY GARDENS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

5:00 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room LL120 - Madison Municipal Building

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair, Nan Fey at 5:05 p.m.. There were introductions by each member for the benefit of the three new members present. There were also thank you cards circulated to members for signatures, which will be sent to members whose terms have expired this year.

Present: 8 -

Nan Fey; Yimmuj Yang; Annette M. Nekola; Joseph E. Muellenberg;
Luke Thao; Kevin Schiesser; Jill Schneider and Melissa Gavin

Absent: 1 -

Matthew J. Phair

Non Voting: 3 -

Joe Mathers; Nicole M. Craig and Nancy A. Dungan

**Nicole Craig and Joe Mathers represent the Community Action Coalition.
Nancy Dungan represents CDBG.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Nekola motioned to approve the June minutes subject to a few corrections. The motion was seconded by Schneider and the minutes were unanimously approved. Schneider moved to approve the September minutes with a few corrections. The motion was seconded by Muellenberg and the minutes were unanimously approved. Members absent from those meetings abstained from voting on the minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS - None

NEW BUSINESS

[24312](#)

Election of Co-Chair

A motion was made by Muellenberg to nominate Jill Schneider as new co-chair. The motion was seconded by Gavin and the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

24313

Meeting Schedule for 2012:

January 24, February 28, March 27, April 24, May 22, June 26, August 7, September 25, October 23, December 4th. All meetings begin at 5:00 p.m. and will take place in Room LL110 of the Madison Municipal Building, 215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Madison. WI.

There was discussion about having a summer meeting, since the committee has not been meeting during the months of July and August. There have been some issues that have arisen during the summer that Community Action Coalition feels need some discussion. It was proposed that the committee meet sometime during the first ten days of August. The meeting schedule for 2012 will be determined at the next meeting.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

15100

Garden/CAC Reports

Craig said CAC had met with Dane County Parks Open Space and they have some land available for new community gardens outside of the City. There are plots anywhere from 6 acres to 206 acres. They will be signing a lease for 5 acres with the county for 2012. There are beans being grown at Badger Prairie Park with plans for more expansion there.

CAC is also working to establish other gardens in the Arbor Hills and Leopold neighborhoods. Brittingham and James Madison Parks along with Darbo and Worthington are other possibilities for gardens. A funding grant with the UW Extension will not be going through but Walmart and Goodman may still come through.

The Community and Food Pantry Gardens Fall Harvest Potluck was held on October 19th and about 30 people were in attendance. Free garden seeds were distributed to everyone.

Mathers circulated a handout with an article about community gardens that was written by a UW Journalism student, featuring Eagle Heights, Meadowood and others.

Schiesser brought up the possible gardens plots that might be available at Brittingham Park. Around 20 people that live at Bayview Apartments have expressed interest in gardening there. There is so much interest in all of the plots they could potentially be used by just Bayview folks. There had been some dialog by Schiesser and Kay Rutledge, from the Madison Parks Department. It was suggested that Rutledge be invited to the next Gardens Committee meeting on December 6th meeting, since there is no Parks Dept. representative on the committee right now.

[18897](#)

CDBG Update

There was no report from Matt Phair since he wasn't at the meeting. Dungan said that Federal funding is still uncertain. The 2012-13 budget will have significant cuts to it. CDBG still wants to support gardens. There are block grant funds available to HUD eligible candidates for two garden sites.

[08283](#)

New Garden Fund - Madison Community Foundation Account

The current balance in the fund is \$9288. The committee would like to discuss how these funds could be handled by the Madison Community Fund with Chris Brockel (CAC) early in 2012 when he is able to attend a meeting and can explain the various options.

The committee also renewed its interest in discussing the guidelines used when evaluating applications for funding. The subcommittee will begin meeting in January 2012, so this would be a good time to ask its members to share their understanding of the current guidelines, and explore possible refinements.

[08281](#)

Parks Update

Attachments: [Email from Sam Stevenson re James Madison Park.doc](#)

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[14868](#)

Planning Update

Fey circulated information on the new proposed Beekeeping Ordinance in Madison. This ordinance has been referred to Sustainable Design and Energy, the Board of Health, Community Gardens and the Plan Commission. She encouraged committee members to attend the Board of Health meeting at the Madison Water Utility on November 10th at 5:30.

COMMUNICATIONS

Schiesser was reminded to send the communication he reported from the 39th ward group in June to staff and/or the committee's co-chair(s) so it can be attached to the appropriate minutes in Legistar.

Schneider expressed interest in having Vincent Smith's research on community gardening in Madison made available to the committee. Nicole Craig has been in touch with the professor who worked with Smith, and will pursue this.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of GROW will be held on December 5th, time and place will be announced on www.growmadison.net. Its meeting on October 17th went well, and included a presentation by Centro Hispano.

The Owl Creek area on the southeast side is getting help from a City Neighborhood Resource Team to identify needs of this challenged and isolated cluster of rental housing. There are vacant (private) parcels in the neighborhood that might have potential for gardens, but it's too soon to know whether gardening will emerge as a priority – if it does, this area might be a good candidate for New Garden Funds.

City policies regarding the pick-up of waste at community gardens appears to be inconsistent from one department to another. Schneider will be contacting George Dreckmann in the Streets Department to start a conversation about how these policies might be standardized.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.