

Food Policy Council Agenda 3/4/15 Updates (NEF)

Community Gardens Committee: At its meeting on January 27th, the committee welcomed a new representative from the CDBG Committee; Greg Rosenberg is very familiar with food and land use issues, and participated in a working group that helped to craft provisions for community and market gardens, as well as an urban agriculture district, for the City's recently revised Zoning Code. The committee was also introduced to Tracy Hartley, newly hired into the Parks Department with community gardens in her portfolio; she will be attending future meetings and is a most welcome addition. Sheboygan Avenue Community Garden is still under threat from current development proposals on the DOT property, but is hoping to secure a permit from the State to use the garden during the 2015 growing season. Planning for the Garden Leader Summit on February 28th is well under way, and the program will include a presentation on the new "partnership" model being created by the City, Extension and Community GroundWorks.

Community Gardens Committee: At its meeting on February 24th, the committee approved the plot fee structure to be utilized in gardens on City-owned lands for 2015-2017. The fees are based on county median income guidelines, and gardens are asked to donate 10% to a grant program that supports the development of new gardens, and improvements or expansions of existing gardens. Mark Woulf and Karen von Heune, Executive Director of Community GroundWorks (Troy Gardens) provided a 1-page description of the new "Gardens Network" that will be working to provide some of the services that had been the responsibility of the Community Action Coalition for decades until May 31, 2014; funds will need to be raised to support this work, and memoranda of understanding will need to be signed among the parties to cover the legal aspects of the partnership and clarify responsibilities. Leases and insurance for community gardens will be managed by the Gardens Network, which is a great relief to their leaders.