



City of Madison

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

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

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 5:10 p.m.

Present: 7 - Steve King; Greg L. Rosenberg; Madelyn D. Leopold; Sharon Lezberg; Nan Fey; Danna J. Olsen and Jill Schneider

Absent: 2 - Aislynn H.C. Miller and Annette M. Nekola

Others Present: Mark Woulf, Cindy Statz, Pat Soderholm, Karen von Huene

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Fey made a motion to approve the minutes of February 23, 2016, as printed.
The motion was seconded by Leopold. Motion passed by a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

REFERRAL FROM COUNCIL

42079

SUBSTITUTE - Directing city staff to explore land options in the University Hill Farms Neighborhood and nearby areas for potential **additional** gardening space lost in the Hill Farms state redevelopment on Sheboygan Avenue.

Attachments: [2007 Hill Farms GDP Condition of Approval and Garden Locations Reviewed 2007-2015 City Letters of Support for Sheboygan Avenue Community Garder](#)
[2015 Hill Farms Neighborhood Plan References to Community Gardens.pdf](#)
[2016 Locations Proposed by Ald. Schmidt.pdf](#)
[2016 Locations Proposed by Gardeners in Rennebohm Park.pdf](#)
[42079 v. 1.pdf](#)
[BPW 4/6/16 Mtg / Item 5_public registration form.pdf](#)

Fey moved that the committee approve Resolution 42079 with recommended changes. King seconded.

Changes recommended, starting at the 7th "WHEREAS" clause: [changes noted and underlined]

WHEREAS, additional private lands, such as land in University Research Park, are also in need of further discussion and analysis; (adding a comma after the word Park)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that city staff explore the aforementioned land options and any others (including private land) that may be possible in the general area in and near the University Hill Farms Neighborhood for new community garden locations; (removing a redundant word for)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that staff should research the cost, soil conditions, water access, sun exposure, and other important factors of locating garden space with the goal of replacing the land lost in the Hill Farms state redevelopment on Sheboygan Avenue; (removing an extra space after the word research and adding the underlined phrase taken from the title of the Resolution)

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED, that equity, land security, safety, accessibility, and competing uses should be considered in the any staff report on each potential garden space; (adding the underlined words and replacing the word any)

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED, that any new garden sites determined to be feasible will then follow a full public process to engage the community, identify potential gardeners, and design site specifics prior to any formal approval; (adding the word then)

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that city staff shall prepare the said report and present the findings to the Common Council and any relevant city committees no later than October 1, 2016. (adding the word IT)

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

[42166](#)

Revise Timeline for Establishing Community Gardens in City of Madison Parks March 2016

Fey suggested bringing this back to a future meeting after it's been reviewed by the Gardens Network.

[42170](#)

Review Mission of Community Gardens Committee March 2016

Fey reported that the letter regarding the review of the mission of the Community Gardens Committee went out on March 4, 2016 to the Madison Food Policy Council, the Dane County Food Policy Council, the Gardens Network, and the Gardens Network Advisory team along with a one-page Summary of Ongoing Issues. Representatives from these entities will be present at the April 26 committee meeting. The committee authorized the co-chairs to prepare the three grids that were developed during this process, along with an introductory text explaining their purpose, to be added to Legistar and linked to the 1999 report. Fey explained that the Agenda for the next meeting (April) will contain a link to every document and this will

generate a Legistar file where all of the documents can be found.

Rosenberg moved approval for Fey and Schneider to move forward with this and put the documents on Legistar. King seconded. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

[42171](#)

Sheboygan Gardens Update March 2016

Cindy Statz, Coordinator of the Sheboygan garden, provided an update on the Sheboygan Gardens. The Common Council approved space for the garden in Rennebohm Park (Option A, by tennis courts). The gardens have received a \$5,000 grant from Madison Community Foundation that will go toward establishing the garden at the site and laying out a water line (underground lines, hoses, water tanks). The garden itself has a budget that will support the redevelopment, including fencing along the tennis court boundary. The site approved will accommodate about 20 percent of the previous garden population. The resolution discussed earlier (Legistar 42079) is meant to address finding space for the remainder of displaced gardeners, as well as others who want to garden.

Woulf reported that this process for identifying garden space was not ideal and that, in the future, the City hopes to have a more systematic process.

King voiced that the equity lens was not well deployed. The whole process needs to take into consideration multiple constituencies. In this case, options A & B should both have been on the table.

Leopold reported that the Parks Commission has a different view of issues of equity and access. Access to garden space on public land is not an entitlement process – all residents should have opportunity to be considered for garden space.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

[42172](#)

Food Policy Council Update March 2016

Fey reported that the Food Policy Council approved nine SEED grants, and the Pollinator Protection Task Force Report's recommendations are being implemented by a work group.

[42173](#)

Parks Update March 2016

Leopold reported on the Brittingham Park Playground. The proposal for a natural berm playground complex was not well received by the neighborhood. The process utilized the racial justice tool to address equity and access. The outcome is that there will be 3 separate playgrounds: (1) a replacement playground near the community garden, (2) an accessible playground near the shelter, (3) a natural playground near the beach shelter.

Leopold further reported on the parks component of the CDA housing development at Allied Drive. The Parks Department did not want community gardens in the park area. There is reason to consider a future garden site when designing the housing plan, in such a way as to hold off development of permanent structures on land that would be suitable for gardens. Leopold has

added language to the master planning process that includes asking about community gardens in parks.

[42174](#)

CDBG Update March 2016

Rosenberg reported that there is no update, in that he missed the February meeting of the Commission and the March meeting was cancelled.

[42180](#)

Planning Update March 2016

No update.

[42181](#)

New Garden Fund March 2016

At the February 23, 2016, meeting of Committee it was determined this agenda item was no longer needed since the Gardens Network was overseeing the fund. Schneider noted it was inadvertently listed on the agenda for the March meeting and will not be included in future agendas.

[42182](#)

Gardens Network/Gardens Coalition Report March 2016

Karen von Huene reported that the Gardens Network is working on a logo design, and has established a different web domain at: danegardens.net . The Advisory Team will meet in April and will finalize the process for the Garden Fund proposal RFP.

Schneider reported that the Gardens Coalition has not met over the winter months. She provided an update that the Emerson East Neighborhood Association wants to explore establishing a community garden and has convened a Sustainability Task Force to look at green space potential. They are considering how to have the garden spot related in some way to the Public Market and bike path planning.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Rosenberg motioned to adjourn at 7:06 p.m. Leopold seconded the motion. Motion passed by a voice vote.