



City of Madison

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

Tuesday, April 26, 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 the chair at 5:10 pm. (All CGC members present except Nekola)

Present: 8 - Steve King; Greg L. Rosenberg; Madelyn D. Leopold; Aislynn H.C. Miller; Sharon Lezberg; Nan Fey; Danna J. Olsen and Jill Schneider

Absent: 1 - Annette M. Nekola

Others Present: Karen von Heune (Executive Director of Community GroundWorks, partner in Gardens Network), Carrie Edgar (Dane County/UW Extension, partner in Gardens Network), Mark Woulf (City of Madison Food & Alcohol Policy Director, partner in Gardens Network), members of Gardens Network Advisory Team Alison Ahlgrim, John Bell, Joe Mathers and Anita Weir. Sheboygan Community Gardens representatives Cindy Statz, Pat Soderholm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rosenberg made a motion to approve the minutes of March 22, 2016. King seconded the motion. Motion passed by a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

[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](#)

Community Gardens Stakeholders introduced themselves. Woulf explained the purpose of the discussion: to determine the role of the Community Gardens

Committee and the other entities going forward.

Committee members went through Grid 3 and the four main ongoing issue areas, land security; infrastructure, engagement of community and other stakeholders; and sustainability of program and evaluation. The Committee invited stakeholders to describe their organization's capacity to address each of these issues.

1.) Land Security

Von Huene discussed the work the Gardens Network has done on leases for gardens on city-owned lands, and the need to expand its efforts in the surrounding areas. They are looking at the length of leases and land tenure.

Edgar reported that the Gardens Network does help groups establish and negotiate a garden on land but does not currently identify space for gardens without being approached.

Fey reported that gardens are included as question to be addressed when Parks are going through their planning process.

2.) Infrastructure

Von Huene reported that the Gardens Network works on getting water to gardens and obtaining funding for fencing but it costs about \$10,000 to start a moderate garden. Funding is an ongoing issue but the Gardens Network has really good ways of making things happen. Help is needed in the political area of navigating the bureaucratic process with policy issues.

3.) Engagement of Community and Stakeholders

Von Huene reported that the Gardens Network has started an email list, newsletter, and is doing some tweaking of its website.

Edgar passed around the Gardens Network brochure and explained that people can now donate to the Gardens Network to fund low-income gardeners. Extension recently created a Community Food Systems Team to work on equity issues.

Fey reported that the Food Policy Council is currently pursuing the Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative tool in the Community Engagement Work Group.

Woulf stated that the Advisory Team will be a link closer to the community to bring things to the attention of the Gardens Network.

Ahlgrim suggested targeted business outreach and obtaining sponsorships.

4.) Sustainability of Program/Evaluation

Edgar reported that the Gardens Network has a business plan and is ready to move forward. They also have an outline of an evaluation plan that UW Extension will be doing for the Network.

Following discussion of ongoing issues, Lezberg asked the Gardens Network if

they saw any items that they could not do in the absence of the Community Gardens Committee. Von Huene and Edgar responded that they did not see any items they couldn't do in the absence of the committee. Woulf stated that it can be covered by the Network; capacity could be an issue, but could be addressed with some restructuring. Lezberg noted that the creation of the Food Policy Council provides another way to work with the City.

42602

Sheboygan Gardens Update April 2016

Statz reported that the Sheboygan Garden is on its way. The trees have been taken out, the area has been tilled, and the perimeter fence has been ordered. Statz passed around a plot map. They did run into a plumbing snag, at a potential cost of \$10,500, and have yet to hear about 2 grants that could help address this cost. Their current lease prohibits using a hose to water the garden.

Woulf stated that this garden was an unusual process and there is potential to change the lease administratively.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS**42603**

Food Policy Council Update April 2016

No Update – No quorum at last meeting.

42604

Parks Update April 2016

Leopold noted the recent article on Brittingham Park developments, and suggested that perhaps the Isthmus could do a whole issue on community gardens. No additional Parks update.

42605

CDBG Update April 2016

Rosenberg reported that he will be the Development Consultant for co-housing at Union Corners, which is very interested in urban agriculture. There are a few barriers and they will be working on the site plan over the next 6 months.

42606

Planning Update April 2016

King reported that the development on High Point and Raymond is a great opportunity. He is pushing for gardens to be part of the process for that plan.

42607

Gardens Network/Gardens Coalition Report April 2016

Schneider is resuming the Gardens Coalition meetings, potentially on May 16th.

Schneider is hoping for an opportunity to discuss a garden on the Public Market site.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The National Farm to Cafeteria Conference will be here June 2-5. There are registration discounts coming out via email to various list serves.

ADJOURNMENT

King made a motion to adjourn at 7:28 pm. Rosenberg seconded the motion. Motion passed by a voice vote.