



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft COMMUNITY GARDENS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 22, 2013

5:00 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room LL-120 (Madison Municipal Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 7 -

Nan Fey; Justin O. Markofski; Madelyn D. Leopold; Annette M. Nekola;
Danna J. Olsen; Jill Schneider and Melissa Gavin

Absent: 1 -

Joseph E. Muellenberg

Others present: Mark Woulf (Mayor's Office); Michelle Shively and Joe Mathers (CAC), Nancy Dungan (CDBG), and visitors Aislynn Miller and Randy Deering.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 23, 2012 - A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Gavin and seconded by Leopold. The minutes were unanimously approved.

December 4, 2012 - A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Gavin and seconded by Leopold. The minutes were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

NEW BUSINESS

Add an item to February's meeting agenda to review and update the community garden plot fee schedule for 2013-14.

OLD BUSINESS

24313

Meeting Schedule for 2013

The following dates were approved for the remainder of 2013: February 26, March 19, April 23, May 28, June 25, September 24 and October 22nd. Dates for the August and December meetings will be determined after new members have joined the committee.

Fey stressed the important of attendance, and reminded the committee that missing three meetings in a row (or five in a year) is grounds for dismissal according to city policy. All members will be asked to respond whether or not they will be attending a meeting; please be careful to reply only to Lisa, do not "reply to all."

Fey might move to one of the vacant citizen member spots when she no longer serves on the Plan Commission in order to continue her service as the committee's representative to (and chair of) the Madison Food Policy Council.

28453

Garden Leadership for Long-Term Sustainability

Mathers said issue was related to concerns over sustainability of leadership of gardens. Does Community Gardens Committee have a role here? Gavin said a memo came out of conversation with Micah, and he said there was not equal amount of support to sustain leadership. There are not many opportunities for new garden leadership to learn from current leaders.

Fey asked what training is currently offered. Shively said there will be a one day leadership conference this year, focused on shared leadership and an outside facilitator will be brought in. Olsen suggested that the sessions be videotaped. They want to see if they can keep it going throughout the year and offer various workshops over the course of a year. Leopold asked if there is a handbook? Mathers said CAC has tried to do in-garden mentoring so they could try to develop relationships. So far, there have only been six to eight workshops. Nekola asked if we have basic information on who the leaders are?

Mathers said they do have a list of coordinators, but they should share leadership. Shiveley said CAC does alot of work with new gardeners. If they are doing well, CAC doesn't want to intervene. She said we should have a standing agenda item on how to sustain leadership and that it should be a 50/50 focus. Fey said that could be a working group topic and we shouldn't mandate leadership structure. Markofski asked if there is a document defining leadership structure? Mathers said yes, they have a draft and would like CACA and the leaders of the Community Gardens to mutually report to each other and establish some sort of evaluation process. CAC has a process to try and transfer leadership - their leadership conference is usually in February. Nekola said even though CAC gives support, we need a group of gardeners to mentor. Mathers said some cities have garden leaders available. Fey stated there needs to be BROADER support of leadership at individual gardens.

Shiveley asked how do we build up resilience in each garden and wondered if a working group should be created? Leopold said we need

community/neighborhood liaison on a leadership team. She thought that forums for gardeners would be helpful. Leopold asked if a working group should be created with garden leaders? Mathers will send the draft that CAC has about the relationship between CAC and Gardens to Lisa to attach to next month's agenda. We will revisit this at next month's meeting. Schneider thought the most useful thing has been the networking with other gardeners.

[25721](#)

Siting Gardens in Parks

Brittingham Park - location was unanimously approved by the Parks Commission on January 9th. Likely factors in this outcome were a heightened awareness about siting gardens in parks and the Mayor's support, but there is still a lot of work to be done. The lease still needs to be developed and potential conditions placed on the garden.

The Timeline for Gardens in Parks has been updated. The new version dated November 29, 2012, will be attached to the February agenda and Kay Rutledge will be invited to discuss the changes. Leopold said they might be looking at more stringent conditions on the lease. Woulf offered the Mayor's perspective. Leopold said there are many issues outlined that may not have to be discussed.

[28454](#)

City of Madison Zoning Changes Highlights

Fey gave an overview of provisions for urban agriculture in the City (i.e., community gardens, chickens, bees, animal husbandry, cultivation), all of which are possible under new zoning code.

[28455](#)

Food Policy Council Update

Woulf report that at their last meeting they began to work on a list of goals for 2013. Four goals should be accomplished by late spring: guidelines for edible landscapes; mapping city-owned land available for community gardens; working to remove unhealthy vending in public buildings; and allowing SNAP (f/k/a food stamps) to be used at farmers markets and with CSA's.

[08281](#)

Parks Update

The community garden at James Madison might be on the February agenda for the Parks Commission. Mathers said there was a four hour meeting with the neighborhood and alder last week.

[18897](#)

CDBG Update

Funding for community gardens could be discussed in the summer.

[14868](#) Planning Update

None.

[08283](#) New Garden Fund

There was only one application for funds this year, so New Garden Fund panel recommends that Brittingham be awarded \$2,000; a formal vote will be taken on this recommendation at the February meeting. There was some discussion about gardens that were funded in 2012. The \$550 that was awarded for this project in 2012 was deferred because no location could be agreed upon - also true for James Madison Park, which would have received \$200. A more complete follow-up report will be provided in February.

The Committee's recommendation that CAC be designated to hold the New Garden Fund monies is being reviewed by the City Attorney's office. The Madison Community Foundation continues to hold the fund at this time.

[15100](#) Garden/CAC Reports

The Leadership Conference will be on February 16th at Warner Park. So far, 45 people signed up. Shively will look into the possibility of having the sessions recorded, perhaps by City Channel. Shively reported that she is resigning her position at CAC at the end of February to return to school.

CAC will have a featured booth at the Garden Expo on February 8, 9 and 10, 2013.

COMMUNICATIONS

Olsen distributed a flyer about the upcoming event "Emerging Clinical Issues in Environmental Health" scheduled for Friday, February 15, 2013, and invited those interested to attend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mathers and Fey conveyed to the Committee that Jerry Kaufman had passed away recently. He was a founding member of our committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.