



City of Madison

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

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

5:00 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 108 (City-County Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 7 -

Nan Fey; Betty Chewning; John B. Bell; Andre Scaife; Mary Malischke; Joe Mathers and Janet Parker

Absent: 1 -

Mai Chong Lor

Excused: 2 -

Monya A. Choudhury and Alice K. Anderson

Also attending were Jane Anne Morris, Jack Kloppenberg, Shoua Vang, Rachel Mallinger, Antonio Cola's, Pat Solderholm, Linda Page and Gary Tipler.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Nan Fey noted that the discussion on Communications with Gardeners was not included in the draft of last month's minutes; copies of the notes on this item were provided to the committee. The minutes from the April 21st meeting were approved unanimously with the addition of the aforementioned details.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jane Anne Morris spoke about her attempts to build on previous efforts to strengthen green space and community gardening in downtown Madison and distributed copies of her May 17, 2009 Capital Times article, "Madison Lagging on Downtown Community Gardens." In response to her question about what the committee has been doing, she was directed to the 1999 report and its subsequent updates.

Jack Kloppenburg spoke about the need for garden preservation and new gardens downtown and throughout the region. He suggested that the Sheboygan Garden relocation experience could be a model for including of gardens in all new Madison development and redevelopment.

NEW BUSINESS

[14859](#) Lease - Special Conditions - Joe Mathers

Referred to the June meeting.

[14860](#) Sheboygan Garden Update - Mary Malischke

Linda Page spoke on behalf of Sheboygan Gardens. Page showed "Relocation and Future of Sheboygan Gardens," a Powerpoint presentation. This presentation gave a brief history and current demographics of the garden. Its focus though, was on the community's efforts to relocate, current options under consideration and similar successful high-density green space developments around the world. The presentation ended with a request to the committee for a letter of support for integration of the new garden into the site planning of the Hill Farms site by Department of Administration. This request will be taken under consideration in the June meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

[14862](#) Communication with Gardeners

Referred to June meeting.

REGULAR BUSINESS - REPORTS

1. [14869](#) Garden/CAC Reports

Janet Parker introduced new CAC staffperson Shoua Vang and volunteer intern Rachel Mallinger. Parker announced that the CAC open position (previously held by Ben Sommers) has been filled by Nicole Craig.

Youth programs are doing spring planting across the city, including at Truax, Burr Oaks, Hammersley, and Marlborough Park gardens. There are 39 community gardens and a push is on for 'communal' types to be used for food pantries. Plant deliveries by CAC of donated vegetable plants have begun.

Gardens are seeing high demand evidenced by long waiting lists. Only one garden has announced available space, the brand new Forsythia Garden in Middleton. Stimulus proposal planning (job creation, youth and food pantry programs) has begun.

2. [08281](#) Parks Update

Parker shared that Demetral Park has been ruled out as a new garden spot primarily due to health/environmental concerns. Other options in the neighborhood are being considered.

3. [14868](#) Planning Update

Fey noted that the urban agriculture proposal was well received by the Zoning Code Rewrite Committee and the language will be included in new draft zoning code.

4. [08283](#) New Garden Fund

The meeting to initiate developing a new set of criteria for future proposals had not been held. Scaife will work with Annette Nekola prior to the June meeting to get this effort started before the summer break and finished in time for a review and adoption by the committee for next year.

5. [09055](#) Garden Plot Fees

Fey noted that the survey will be available in draft form in June.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Janet Parker announced the 7th annual bike tour of community gardens with the Mayor, which will be held Saturday, August 29.

Author Michael Pollan will be attending several events in Madison during September; he is keynote speaker for the Food for Thought Festival.

COMMUNICATIONS

CAC e-newsletter was received by committee members.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Betty Chewning and seconded by John Bell. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.