



City of Madison

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

Tuesday, September 23, 2014

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 5:07 PM.

Present: 6 - Justin O. Markofski; Madelyn D. Leopold; Aislynn H.C. Miller; Nan Fey; Jill Schneider and Melissa Gavin

Absent: 3 - Steve King; Annette M. Nekola and Danna J. Olsen

Others Present: Joe Mathers, Mark Woulf

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Markofski moved approval of the August 5th minutes. Fey seconded the motion. Motion passed by a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Mathers stated that the Truax garden is being relocated as a requirement of the Plan Commission. They would like to have the move done by the middle of October.

Fey noted that this may come up with other gardens, and asked Mathers to document the process and issues that arise for future reference.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Fey suggested adding setting the calendar for the next year to the October agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

[32247](#)

Status of Community Gardens Program

Fey reported that a small team, representing Community GroundWorks, the City of Madison and Dane County/UW Extension, with assistance from Public Health of Madison & Dane County, are developing a business plan that outlines a framework, structure and partnership plan for community gardens in Dane County.

The planning process includes seven business planning meetings (Sept – Dec) to gather insights and ideas from the larger group as well as other communities (research phase), develop drafts of strategic, governance and programmatic models (review phase); compare options using financial projections, risk assessments, and impact estimates (evaluate phase); establish an implementation and integration plan with milestones for review and indicators for success (elaborate phase). Conversations will be held with private funder(s) to receive input, discuss potential models and assess funding options/alternatives; also one-on-one conversations on as needed basis, connecting with stakeholders to gather necessary information and insights that impact decision-making.

A potluck gathering of garden leaders is being held on September 30th (6-8 at the Catholic MultiCultural Center) to re-introduce the project, give an overview on updates/next steps, and gain feedback on gardener perspectives.

At the monthly meetings of the Planning Group on Oct 16 and Nov 20, updates will be provided on the process, feedback and input will be gathered on ideas being considered.

[31912](#)

New Garden Fund Issues

Fey reported that a request for contributions was sent out. Leopold stated that Nekola did get a reply from the Madison Community Fund that some gardens are putting in contributions. Miller will remind people to contribute on the take home sheet at the garden leaders meeting.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

[28455](#)

Food Policy Council Update

Fey reported that the pollinator resolution has been held back for the Parks Commission and the Committee on the Environment to review it, but the Madison Food Policy Council should be in a position to finalize it next week. The point of the resolution is to see what we can do as a City to promote the environment for pollinators. The task force will include three members of the Food Policy Council, representatives of various City departments, and will conduct its work through next summer. The City can set a good example through practice and encourage others to follow.

A progress report of what the Food Policy Council has done in its first two

years will be released this fall, and the council is helping the Dane County Food Policy Council to plan Food Day, which is October 24th. The Food Policy Council has made budget requests to fund another year of SEED grants, EBTs at Farmer's Markets, and to start an economic development fund.

[08281](#)

Parks Update

Leopold reported that Eric Knepp has been named the new Parks Superintendent. The Recreational Services Coordinator position has been filled by Tracy Hartley. Her job description includes Community Gardens. The Committee will invite her to a meeting, potentially in December or January, so she can learn about the issues the Committee addresses. Leopold will send a note to Eric and Dawn to see what can be worked out.

Fey stated that the group should keep December 9th in mind and will touch base with Woulf.

[18897](#)

CDBG Update

Markofski informed the group that he is stepping down from his position on the CDBG Committee, and as Community Gardens Liaison with CDBG, he can no longer serve on the Committee on Community Gardens. In October the CDBG Committee will be selecting a new liaison. The September meeting would likely be his last although he will officially remain on the Committee in case there are quorum issues in October.

There will be a discussion at a future CDBG Committee meeting on their commitment to gardens. It could be an opportunity for someone from this Committee to make a case for the importance of community gardens.

[14868](#)

Planning Update

No Report.

[08283](#)

New Garden Fund

Covered in #31912 above. No additional report.

[15100](#)

Garden Report

Schneider stated that Josh Feyen sent an email to the Madison Area Community Garden Leaders Google group asking what the process is for starting a community garden in a City park. Gavin replied to him, and stated that she would share the flow chart that has been developed for requesting gardens in City parks. Schneider suggested sharing the New Garden Fund document with him. Fey stated that the group should consider where they would point him next and keep information provided on an individual basis to avoid getting numerous applications. Gavin will provide him with the updated flow chart, refer him to Lexa, and offer to be a mentor in a limited capacity.

Fey shared that Crowley Station had its grand opening.

Schneider reported that the Troy Community Gardens Garden Day event was

on September 20th and about 80 people attended.

Miller gave an update on the Hammersley garden. She stated that Lexa has been a huge help bringing it back. They had a work day where they weeded and put down cardboard and coffee bags. The garden looks much better, but it will need a leader in the second phase. Schneider inquired as to how we are addressing the issues of theft, vandalism, and violence. Miller reported that taking kids into the garden and having them work would teach them to respect it since they do stay out late and the lighting in the garden isn't very good. Gardeners didn't know who to call in this situation. Mathers stated that neighborhood officers and Neighborhood Resource Team leaders would be helpful, but the information isn't being shared. Woulf stated that the City could be helpful in terms of officer involvement.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Food Day is at the Lussier Center on October 24th from 9 AM to 3: 30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Leopold made a motion to adjourn at 6:24 PM. Fey seconded the motion. Motion passed by a voice vote.