



City of Madison

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

Tuesday, March 22, 2011

5:00 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room LL120 - Madison Municipal Building

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 10 -

Nan Fey; Charlie R. Sanders; Betty Chewning; Annette M. Nekola; Andre Scaife; Jill Schneider; Melissa Gavin; Joe Mathers; Nicole M. Craig and Nancy A. Dungan

Absent: 1 -

Kevin Schiesser

Public or City Staff present: Bryan Cooper - Engineering; Nancy Dungan - Community Development; Joe Mathers and Jason Clay (CAC) and John Bell, Joe Mullenberg, Emily Eggleston and Sue Rosa.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Betty Chewning moved to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Andre Scaife. The minutes were unanimously approved with the following changes:

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

SPECIAL ITEM OF BUSINESS

21380

Accepting the Madison City Staff authored feasibility study for a rooftop intensive community garden and/or a green roof at the remodeled/renovated Madison Central Public Library.

Bryan Cooper, an architect from City Engineering's Facility and Sustainability office, presented the "Green Roof Feasibility Study" for the remodeled Madison Central Public Library. Required in the budget for the project, the study explored two options: an extensive green roof (6" of soil planted with drought-resistant, wind-tolerant plants) and an intensive green roof (over 12" of soil in planters for raising vegetables, similar to the installation on the Madison Children's Museum). The benefits of green roofs include reducing energy loss, muffling sound, and extending the life of the roof membrane underneath; however, they are more costly to install than traditional roofs, may require additional structural support, and raise concerns about security and access.

The study concludes that the “extensive” is feasible, and recommends an area for a green roof on the project (more area will be included in the bid, if the budget permits, could be added). The “intensive” community garden option is not recommended for a number of reasons including the additional cost of complying with building codes, security requirements, lease agreements, and elevator access. The study also investigated alternative locations for community gardens in downtown parks, and identified those areas in an extensive set of accompanying documents.

The committee voted unanimously to accept the Green Roof Feasibility Study (on a motion by Sanders, seconded by Scaife) with the following additional recommendations:

1. If the Council was willing to consider “intensive” garden space on the roof, to investigate reducing costs by a) reducing soil coverage rather than the number of planters, b) utilizing “un-manned” security options, c) implementing a different lighting standard, and d) determining whether or not a third elevator would be needed.
2. If the Council accepted the recommendation for the “extensive green roof” only, that the City should aggressively pursue the development of community gardens in downtown parks

NEW BUSINESS

21799

City Pickup of Waste From Gardens

The committee agreed that George Dreckman should be contacted and invited to a Garden Comm meeting in near future.

21800

CSBG Budget Discussion

Nicole Craig reported that Comm. Action Coalition (CAC) actions on 2012 federal budget could result in significant cuts to CAC funding in both CSBG and CDBG funds. CSBG funds are a significant portion of CAC budget and current language proposes to cut CSBG funds by 50% and change the entitlement funding process to a competitive process open to non-CAC agencies. Current City allocation of federal CDBG funds of approximately \$56,000 for community gardens could also be in jeopardy as cuts to CDBG entitlement funds are also being considered.

20739

Recommendations for Updating the Committee Report of 2004-2007

Annette reported the work group is just about finished with their work and she will present a draft for review and adoption at the April mtg.

REGULAR BUSINESS

15100 Garden/CAC Reports

Nicole Craig reported that new gardens for 2011 include Majestic Oaks and Black Hawk on City's northside. Also reported on garden data from 2002 through 2010 shows an increase in the number of garden plots of 64%, 96% increase in the number of acres used as community gardens, and 129% in the number of households served.

18897 CDBG Update

Everyone is concerned about money but supports community gardens.

08283 New Garden Fund

Awards have been made and checks sent to gardens receiving funds.

08281 Parks Update - Support Letter from Central Park Garden

Two meetings of the Central Park Design and Implementation Task Force will be held on March 30th, 8 am in 260 of MMB, and 6 pm public hearing at 130 S. Ingersoll. Betty Chewning presented a draft letter for Garden Comm. to send to the Central Park Design and Implementation Task Force in support of expanded area for community gardening activities in park design. Letter was approved with revisions. Members were encouraged to attend the public hearing.

14868 Planning Update

Nan Fey reported that zoning code re-write is scheduled for action by the Common Council on March 29th.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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