



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft COMMUNITY GARDENS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 28, 2013

5:00 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room LL-110 (Madison Municipal Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 8 -

Steve King; Justin O. Markofski; Madelyn D. Leopold; Aislynn H.C. Miller;
Annette M. Nekola; Danna J. Olsen; Jill Schneider and Melissa Gavin

Excused: 2 -

Joseph E. Muellenberg and Nan Fey

Also present: Mark Woulf, Mayor's Office; Nancy Dungan, CDBG; Micah
Kloppenburger, Joe Mathers and Shelly Strom, CAC; Eric Biebila.

Alder King was introduced as a new committee member representing the Plan
Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minor changes suggested by Schneider to 3/19/13 minutes. Motion and second
to approve minutes for March and April as corrected, were unanimously
approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Joe Mathers asked the committee to work with Parks to develop a list of
allowable garden improvements for gardens located in City parks to provide
guidance and efficiency for those gardens as they consider improvements.

OLD BUSINESS

24313

Meeting Schedule for 2013

The members of the committee came to consensus on the August and
December meeting dates. Those meetings will take place August 6, 2013 and
December 3, 2013. There are no meetings in July or November.

[28453](#)

Garden Leadership for Long-Term Sustainability

Attachments: [Garden Leadership Doc 10 23 2012.docx](#)
[CAC draft Garden Compact 2013.doc](#)

Schneider summarized past discussion by Committee regarding support for sustainable leadership at local garden level, and what role, if any, the Garden Committee can play? What can CAC do?

Gavin reported on challenges from leadership changes at Reindahl Garden. It's important to create systems that provide good transitions as leaders change at gardens. The 10/23/12 summary by the Community Action Coalition was referenced to start conversation.

It was suggested those involved with community gardens need to shift the narrative about gardens, "We grow more than vegetables, we grow community."

Committee identified leadership issues:

- More interaction is needed between experienced garden leadership and new gardens;
- Burn out among leaders, especially when there is only 1 or 2 leaders;
- Boundary issues for many leaders who get many phone calls/emails from gardeners;
- Many gardeners are not aware of all work that leaders take on and how they could contribute to work load;
- Challenges for sharing leadership given different languages often used in single garden;
- Many gardens do not have systems for recruiting new leaders and sharing management operations and systems;
- Many different personalities involved with gardens, not all are suited to leadership roles;
- Many gardeners are not interested in garden operations, challenges recruiting and engaging steady volunteers;
- Many new garden leaders do not take time to read material CAC makes available to them about how to establish and run a garden.

Committee identified possible solutions:

- Potential assistance from existing neighborhood associations that could offer structure or assistance for managing garden operations?;
- Parent Teacher Organizations might be a resource, particularly for school gardens;
- Gardens should develop job descriptions that detail what is required and how different functions are accomplished;
- Make use of list serves to minimize phone and email overload to leaders;
- Create a separate email account for communication between gardeners and leader(s) to avoid boundary issues (e.g., calling and emailing leaders at work);
- Educate your gardener population as to how much time/effort it takes to maintain the community garden;
- Many gardens utilize a volunteer requirement that can be met by participating in garden management activities;
- Garden managers should utilize a buddy system so that others are familiar with garden management tasks, single garden leadership structure is problematic;
- Establishing regular/weekly gardening times helps provide greater access/contact among gardeners;
- Gardens will always need to work on inclusiveness;
- CAC and Garden Committee. should consider structures to regularly bring garden leaders together so that they can learn from each others' successes;
- Create system to provide garden mentors in general, but also as part of the New Garden Fund (NGF) process;
- Could CAC establish a garden leader list serve?;
- Could CAC organize a meeting of garden leaders (at least 2 from each garden) to share models and best practices, written job descriptions, "how to" for various garden activities (e.g. spring registration, work days, closing days, etc); are there mentors who might volunteer to help new gardens with organizing these important systems?:
 - Should CAC require attendance of a couple leaders from each new garden at an orientation session prior to the start of a new season?;
 - Should new garden leaders attend Spring Registration, Opening Day, and Work Day events at other gardens to see how things are done "in action";
 - Can the NGF process include systems to familiarize new leaders/applicants with existing materials?;
 - City contract with CAC could include focus on garden leadership development;
 - Parks could add award for Garden Leadership as part of their annual awards;
 - National Community Garden conference will be held in Chicago in 2014. How can we get garden leaders to the conference? Talk with Judy Olsen about grant opportunities to help with costs;
 - Woulf said the City grant writing resources could be made available if needed to work on grants to help fund garden leadership development initiatives;
 - Can this Committee help change the narrative about what a community gardens is (i.e., "We grow more than vegetables, we grow community."

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

[28455](#)

Food Policy Council Update

Woulf reported that Terrace Planting and Edible Landscape ordinances recently reviewed by Garden Committee were both adopted by Council. Staff are now working on policy elements of those ordinances, and will refer to Garden Committee when complete.

[08281](#)

Parks Update

Leopold reported that Parks Foundation has hired a new Executive Director of the Parks Foundation, Stephanie Franklin. There has been no movement on the request for a community garden in James Madison Park.

[18897](#)

CDBG Update

Markofski reported that CDBG Committee will consider funding applications for neighborhood centers and community gardens in June and July.

[14868](#)

Planning Update

Alder King is new representative to Garden Committee from Plan Commission. Nan Fey will continue on the Garden Committee as citizen representative.

[08283](#)

New Garden Fund

Brockel needs to request funds from Madison Community Foundation for Brittingham Community Garden.

[15100](#)

Garden/CAC Reports

Brittingham Park garden has been installed, 42 plots. There has been lots of positive response from neighbors and community. It was suggested that some of this positive feedback be expressed in person at an upcoming Parks Commission meeting. Garden in Leopold Park to install new garden murals and raised beds, includes 24 plots. Sheboygan garden: State is working again on plans to re-develop the larger site where the garden is located. Mathers raised question whether the conditional language that requires State to accommodate or re-locate existing garden if land is re-used is still in force. CAC reported all garden sites in the City are full with waiting lists.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Olsen reported that a large donation was made to UW Hospital for the installation of a roof-top garden.

ADJOURNMENT

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