



City of Madison

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

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

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 at 5:07 p.m. by Chair Fey.

Present: 9 -

Nan Fey; Matthew J. Phair; Madelyn D. Leopold; Annette M. Nekola;
Joseph E. Muellenberg; Luke Thao; Jill Schneider; Melissa Gavin and
Nancy A. Dungan

Absent: 1 -

Joe Mathers

Excused: 2 -

Yimmuj Yang and Danna J. Olsen

Also present: Michelle Shively and Micah Kloppenburg (CAC), Francis Eanes,
U.W. Madison student, and Katie Crawley, Mayor's Office.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Leopold moved to approve the minutes with changes - motion was seconded
by Gavin - minutes were unanimously approved with changes made.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

PRESENTATION

[26120](#)

"Lots to Plots: Building an Inventory of Vacant Land in Madison, WI" - by
Frances Eanes, UW Graduate Student

Francis Eanes gave his presentation discussing urban agriculture and possible
use of GIS maps to be used for locating possible gardens sites in the future.
They would help locate water main sites. The data could be useful in
developing a Master Plan for Community Gardens.

NEW BUSINESS

Muellenberg asked for discussion at the May meeting about the City's new policy to charge for mulch, removing fee exclusion for schools and community gardens. He suggested the Gardens Committee may want to address this formally. A suggestion was made to invite Chris Kelley or other staff from Streets to discuss the new policy with the committee.

OLD BUSINESS

[25721](#) Siting Gardens in Parks

Fey reported that letter approved by Comm. was sent to Parks Commission and Parks Superintendent on 3/30/12. Committee agreed to re-visit the status of Parks "siting flow- chart" and Garden Committee suggestions in August.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

[18897](#) CDBG Update

No updates.

[14868](#) Planning Update

Fey reported that Parks and Open Space plan has been recommended for adoption and is making its way through committee process. The Plan was recently approved by Plan Commission. Fey distributed written comments she provided at the Plan Commission meeting.

[08283](#) New Garden Fund

Nekola reported that the NGF Working Group has begun its work and will be meeting again next week to review historical background information. Funds have been allocated to the Leopold School Park and the garden installation work is underway. Elvehjem and Leopold Parks garden project funding will be distributed shortly.

15100

Garden/CAC Reports

Michelle Shively introduced Micah Kloppenburg, new garden staff hired at CAC. Shively reported that Badger Fountain of Life garden now has 4 Nepali leaders and is being well managed. Most gardens are reporting full use with waiting lists. Reindahl has a few un-claimed plots.

Leopold asked if it would be possible to get comparison data for number of garden plots used, number of vacant plots, and the number of people on the waiting lists for recent years? Fey commented that CAC had recently been working on compiling data to illustrate the amount of acreage used for gardening on City-owned land, and what percentage of that land was located in City parks. Shively agreed to check into what data could be re-constructed about past garden use and vacancies and how that might be combined with other garden data.

Shively reported that CAC had been working with Parks and residents to find an acceptable garden site in Brittingham Park. Good news is that more than 50 residents participated in the meeting to discuss the site options. Though no agreement was reached, there was good discussion and there seems room for future conversation. Alder Ellingson is not comfortable supporting a garden site in the park at this time given the split opinions on the matter. Among elders would prefer to get more agreement among area residents before pursuing adoption of a final site. Neighborhood concerns about siting a garden in the park were largely about visual aesthetics and concern about design and obstructing views of the bay. CAC will work on cost estimates related to 2 site options being considered.

Various comments were offered about ways to address general concerns with garden siting, and support additional garden development. Katie Crawley offered that the Mayor has recently returned from a food conference in Boston and is very interested in this general issue and community gardens. Fey inquired if anyone had information on activity or charge of City's Local Food Committee? General discussion about need to coordinate City activities and overlapping interests related to food, gardens and sustainability. Phair mentioned the Education Comm's approach and suggested a similar approach might be appropriate for these issues. Dungan asked if this could be included on the May agenda.

[08281](#)

Parks Update

Leopold reported that Parks staff relayed similar information about neighborhood meeting to site a garden in Brittingham Park. Some residents view gardens as appropriate park use while others view them as inappropriate use. Alder Ellingson desires to have agreement among residents before recommending garden site in the park. Leopold suggested that Community Gardens Committee may want to provide new alders with orientation to community garden issues, especially as they relate to siting concerns.

Leopold reported that Parks Superintendent Briski had made a proposal to terrace the site being considered for James Madison Park, and as a result the neighborhood group withdrew their objection to the staff proposal for a garden site at the park. Terracing plans are proceeding, and timeline for garden installation is uncertain as Superintendent Briski and neighbors continue to work on the details.

Plans for new gardens in Leopold and Elvejhem parks are proceeding with no problems. CAC expects leases shortly and gardens will be in for this growing season.

Leopold commented that Parks' staff and the committee are approaching these issues for siting new gardens and developing a workable process in good faith. Good things are coming from these discussions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Schneider shared that Joe Mingle sent a letter to the Mayor seeking approval to put in a temporary food pantry garden at the currently unused vacant site. Good outcome, little hassle. It was noted this is a temporary use.

Crawley encouraged everyone to participate in Community Budgeting meetings, or to submit thoughts via on-line survey on the City's web site.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Phair to adjourn, seconded by Leopold and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.