



# City of Madison

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

## Meeting Minutes - Approved COMMUNITY GARDENS COMMITTEE

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Tuesday, July 27, 2010

5:00 PM

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

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Andre Scaife at 5:05 p.m.

**Present:** 10 -

Nan Fey; Betty Chewning; John B. Bell; Annette M. Nekola; Andre Scaife;  
Alice K. Anderson; Kevin Schiesser; Joe Mathers; Nicole M. Craig and  
Nancy A. Dungan

**Excused:** 1 -

Monya A. Choudhury

Others present were Joe Mathers and Nancy Dungan. Guests were Dorothy Krause, gardener at Marlborough, Helen Sarakinos, gardener at Atwood and Jenniifer Nowicki, gardener at Eagle Heights

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Annette Nekola moved to approve the minutes from the May 25th meeting and the motion was seconded by Alice Anderson. Nan Fey moved to approve the minutes from the June 22nd meeting and the motion was seconded by Annette Nekola. Both were approved by voice vote of those present at each meeting. Members absent from each meeting abstained from voting on the minutes of the meeting they missed.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

Fey suggested the committee consider updating the report that currently covers its activities from 2003 through 2007. This suggestion can be placed on a future agenda for discussion of how/whether to proceed.

### 18896

City's Potential Requirement of a Lease and Liability Insurance for Urban Orchards and Edible Landscaping on Public Lands.

Chewning reported on the Parks Commission meeting of July 14, 2010. Fifty people registered in support of edible landscaping in parks, one against. A motion was made to support an agreement allowing volunteers to plant edible landscaping in parks, following the example of the existing Margaret Pohl Flower Garden program (which requires no lease or insurance from volunteers, but specifies their responsibilities, species to be planted, etc). The Commission voted (5:1) in favor of the motion, expressing the preference of a clear majority of its members that volunteers should be able to plant edible landscaping in city parks, but its action may not be valid because the issue was noticed on the meeting agenda "for informational purposes." The City Attorney has been asked to review both the action of the Commission and the Agreement that it supported in the motion. Chewning will provide updates on this issue as it works its way through the Parks Commission process.

Fey reported on a meeting she attended on June 24th representing the Community Gardens Committee, attended by Mayor Dave, his aide Ray Harmon, Parks Superintendent Kevin Briski and his second-in-command Kay Rutledge, and Bill Barker from the Parks Commission. It was generally agreed that a way should be found for a couple of pilot projects to be planted during this growing season (perhaps with the insurance coverage of a local 501(c)(3) non-profit organization), and that the City should develop a policy concerning the planting of edible landscaping by volunteers on public lands in general (not just in parks). She also reported that a group of supportive Alders have begun a process to bring the issue before the City Council. Fey will provide updates on the general City process as it develops.

A brief discussion followed concerning the "Communities Take Root" grants that have been applied for by gardens in Allied, Eagle Heights and Wingra. By the end of the year, some or all of these may be funded and have material from the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation to be planted.

**OLD BUSINESS**

[18592](#) Update of Discussion on Committee, CDBG and CAC Roles.

Dungan reported that a discussion had been initiated with the Mayor's office about clarifying these roles, and exploring the City's role in Local Food issues, with Joel Plant just before he resigned his position to move to Milwaukee. The new mayoral aide with Community Gardens in his portfolio is Chris Klein, who began work earlier this month. Schiesser approached Mayor Dave on this subject, during the bike tour of community gardens held last weekend, and was encouraged to invite Mr. Klein to a committee meeting. It was agreed that Klein should be given some background on the issues before inviting him to a meeting, but that the committee should pursue this in the fall. It was also noted that Lisa Olmsted from the Mayor's office staff will begin taking Minutes for the committee starting in September.

**REGULAR BUSINESS - REPORTS**

[18897](#) CDBG Update

The Commission expects to name a replacement for Monya Choudhury as its representative to the Committee in time for the September meeting.

[08281](#) Parks Update

See Edible Landscaping discussion, item #18896 above.

[14868](#) Planning Update

Zoning Code Rewrite recommendations of Plan Commission will be ready for the Common Council by September. The Council will hold a Public Hearing on the draft text at that time, and anyone wishing to comment on the provisions concerning urban agriculture should feel free to attend and speak.

[08283](#) New Garden Fund

Gardens will be reminded again to send in their contribution of 10% of their plot fees to support the fund.

[15100](#) Garden/CAC Reports

Mathers handed out copies of a brochure printed with support from the Madison Community Foundation called "Community and Food Pantry Gardens of Dane County" which has a great (and updateable) map in addition to explanations about gardens and how to support them.

Darbo Garden youth program had a very nice write up in a recent Isthmus issue.

The Mayor was joined by about 30 (non-staff) people on the 8th annual Bike Tour of Community Gardens which was held last weekend. He posted an entry on his blog about it on the City's website. See [www.cityofmadison.com/mayor/blog/](http://www.cityofmadison.com/mayor/blog/)

St. Paul gardeners held a meeting with representatives of the state this month, and will gather again in August with representatives of the railroad to learn more details about their plans for the corridor and its implications for the 72 garden plots there.

Sheboygan Community Gardens have not been added to the state's plan as requested, and no new plans have been proposed for the next phase of the project.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ADJOURNMENT**

Fey moved to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Nekola.  
The motions passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.