



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft COMMUNITY GARDENS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

5:00 PM

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

Please contact Lisa Olmsted at 266-4615 by 4:00 p.m. on April 26, 2010 if you will not be able to attend the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Scaife at 5:04 p.m.

Present: 10 -

Monya A. Choudhury; 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 -

Nan Fey

Others present were: Nicole Craig, Joe Mathers, Katie Peterson and Ellen Geisler.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After correcting a typographical error on the roll call list, the motion was made to approve by Alice Anderson, seconded by Kevin Schlessler. The minutes were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none. However, questions on how to proceed on a previously suggested item from March 23, an examination of the roles of the committee, the CDBG and the New Garden Fund Panel in community gardens in Madison and surrounding areas. Schiesser will spearhead this while including CDBG and CAC staff.

REGULAR BUSINESS - REPORTS

[08281](#)

Parks Update

There was no update.

[14868](#)

Planning Update

Scaife, providing an update from Fey, read from the Parks and Open Space Plan for 2005. This report does not say much about community gardening. Some highlights:

City Parks & Open Space Plan 2005 Community Gardens

A Community Gardens Plan was adopted in 2000 and progress has been made at adding gardens to some park sites, such as Quann and Reindahl.

Urban Gardens (page 37)

In this Plan, gardens will be recognized as a potential use in area and community parks, and in open space land not used or planned for other purposes. Because gardens are a single use by relatively few people, they cannot use land that is needed for other specific facilities or for multiple use field space. However, gardens have proven to be compatible alongside other park uses if there is sufficient space, and will be included in new park plans when possible.

Bell referred to Craig's request that "...the committee look into having a staff member of the Mayor's office take minutes during committee meetings to allow her to more fully participate in the meeting". This reminded members of an original compromise where the Committee Report recommended a new City position for community gardens be created that was instead changed to providing City staff resources to the Committee. Scaife will follow up on this with Fey.

[08283](#)

New Garden Fund

Anderson reported that the fund balance is \$7,739 after \$1,900 was allocated. Will need to continue to follow up on which gardens have contributed. Nekola inquired about whether there is a due date? Generally, a summer reminder letter is sent out with follow up if necessary.

Questions regarding getting checks out to garden groups in a more timely fashion were discussed. The need for both the Garden Committee approvals and Madison Community Foundation oversight requirements/paperwork coupled with late season grant review makes the process difficult. Also, the New Garden Fund panel is not a subcommittee which adds further complications.

15100

Garden/CAC Reports

This is a very busy time for gardens across the city with registrations and openings of new sites. A Russet Road combined edible plantings at 7 low-income apartment buildings drew 75 volunteers for a “permablitz” and may herald a new approach in areas where land is scarce and need is high.

Two new brochures are coming out: 1) a substantial publicity outreach effort by the Madison Community Foundation (to both raise the visibility and hopefully attract more resources for community gardens) and 2) one for volunteer recruitment uses.

Wait list status has not been reported back in any detail (as it is only April) but only a few sites reported that they still have openings with the vast majority report being full. CAC will be seeking to put together a combined list of those “not placed” as well as look into the number using plots at more than one site.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anderson requested that members let the Chairs know well in advance if you aren't able to attend so that meetings may be canceled if making quorum isn't possible.

ADJOURNMENT

Monya Choudhury motioned to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by John Bell. The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.