



City of Madison

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

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

5:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 6 -

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

Absent: 3 -

Steve King; Nan Fey and Danna J. Olsen

Others present: Nancy Dungan (CDBG), Joe Mathers, Shelly Strom,, Wayne Morris and Greta Hansen (CAC), Mary Michaud (Public Health) and Mark Woulf (Mayor's Office). Introductions were made due to the number of guests present at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Nekola questioned whether the minutes correctly reflected the Committee's discussion of having two groups convene to address the outstanding issue: the original working groups to address the fiscal issues and the formation of a new group of existing and previous members of the New Garden Fund Panel to address the non-fiscal issues. The members agreed that there was discussion of two groups. Therefore, the minutes were not amended. A motion was made by Leopold and seconded by Nekola to approve the December 3, 2013 minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mathers suggested adding a new regular agenda item to discuss community garden opportunities within new development and redevelopment projects (e.g., Royster and Tennyson Lane). We can discuss projects we know about and also identify other resources that could be tapped so the Committee can become aware of opportunities earlier in the development cycle for the project.

OLD BUSINESS

[32247](#)

Status of Community Gardens Program - Update from Community Action Coalition

Greta Hansen, Executive Director of Community Action Coalition, told the Committee the Community Conversation to discuss the future of Community Gardens will be held Tuesday, March 4th from 1:00 - 4:30 p.m., likely at Fitchburg Library. The CAC Board and staff will be attending the meeting to listen rather than actively participate, but CAC staff will serve as resources at the meeting as needed. Greta will give a brief overview and then there will be breakout sessions facilitated by members of this Committee. Members should receive an invitation in the near future for the meeting and reply as to whether they can attend or not. Mary Michaud from Public Health distributed copies of the draft concept paper. Late last year, Michaud met with Mark Woulf, Greta Hansen, and the Mayor to discuss the future of the Gardens Program at CAC, and as a result drafted the concept paper to explore data regarding community gardens and models used to support community gardens. She used data from CAC and many other resources. The Committee should review the paper and provide feedback to Michaud by 6:00 p.m., on Friday, February 7, 2014. This paper will likely be provided to the attendees at the Community Conversation meeting on March 4, 2014. An electronic copy will be sent by Michaud to Schneider for distribution to members of the Committee via email.

[31912](#)

New Garden Fund Issues

Attachments: [Gardens Working Group ReportFINAL.pdf](#)
[New Garden Fund Issues Discussion Document for 12-3-13 Meeting.pdf](#)

Nekola reported that Greta Hansen (CAC), Wayne Morris (CAC), Leopold, Janet Parker and Dungan met to discuss the issues as identified at the 12/3/14 meeting of this Committee. They discussed primarily the fiscal issues even though the group convened to address all the issues as the understanding at the time was that this group was to address all the issues, not just the fiscal issues. They decided to defer most of the issues until after the Community Conversation meeting takes place on 3/4/14. However, they did specifically discuss the issue of where the New Garden Fund monies should be held. Right now approximately \$8,800 are with Madison Community Foundation and \$3,800 are at CAC. CAC would like to move the money to one place as soon as possible. Leopold spoke to the Superintendent of Parks, Kevin Briski, about having the Parks Foundation hold the money as a temporary solution. He is agreeable to this. Leopold will follow up with the head of the Parks Foundation to discuss the possibility further and report back at the next meeting. Leopold suggested that Grant Frautschi and Stephanie Franklin from the Parks Foundation be invited to attend the Community Conversation on 3/4/14. Depending on the outcome of the Community Conversation, the New Garden Fund Working Group will reconvene to continue discussion of the issues.

[31106](#)

Sheboygan Gardens

No news. Mathers did inform the group that he re-applies each year with the State for Sheboygan Gardens and may have more information after that.

[30629](#)

Parks Department Pre-approved List of Improvements at Community Gardens

Attachments: [Draft Garden Lease Language for Discussion 10-22-13 Item #30629.pdf](#)

Leopold reported that Kay Rutledge from the Parks Department is generally supportive of the changes to the lease agreement that would list what the gardeners would eventually like to include in their community garden. However, she has some concerns with some of the preamble language. Madelyn and Mathers will continue to work with Parks on the lease changes.

[28453](#)

Garden Leadership for Long-Term Sustainability

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

Gavin reported that the working group's meeting that was to take place between our last Committee meeting and this one was cancelled.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

[28455](#)

Food Policy Council Update

Woulf announced the new SEED Grant funds can be applied for now, and the deadline is 2/7/14. There is \$50,000 available. The Council working group for the SEED grant will make their recommendations for awards by 3/5/14, and the Common Council will review at their 3/18/14 meeting. They are primarily looking for projects that address actions as outlined in the "Healthy Food for All Children 10-Year Plan." Criteria also include the fact that the group applying must not currently be funded by the City of Madison. Funds for grants will probably be included yearly as part of the Executive Budget for the City of Madison. The SEED grant information can be found on the City of Madison website, click on Mayor's page, click on Priorities and then Food.

The Food Policy Council is also discussing the Electronic Transfer Program (EBT) as part of the SNAP (a/k/a Food Stamps) program with regards to expanding and improving the infrastructure to better accommodate such programs as Double Dollars.

[08281](#)

Parks Update

Attachments: [Brittingham Garden Update Sept 2013.pdf](#)

Leopold reported that Strom is working on the waterline for Brittingham. In addition, Strom and Leopold have been pursuing options for providing a fence around the Brittingham Community Gardens as requested by gardeners and supported by the Mayor. They have spoken with Mary Berryman Agard, a Brittingham gardener and homeowner, and Karin Wolf, arts coordinator for the City of Madison. Discussions have led to the idea that the fence could be an arts project as well as a placemaker for Brittingham Community Gardens. It's clear this could be a multi-year project, but the priority for 2014 will be providing a fence that deters rabbits and other such critters. Leopold and Strom would like to form a working group to include some of the people they have been in discussions and inviting others that have been identified such as Curt Brink who owns the apartment building near the gardens. A motion was made by Markofski and seconded by Gavin to authorize Leopold and Strom to form a working group for the Brittingham fence project.

[18897](#)

CDBG Update

Markofski reported that the Spring Emerging Opportunities grant applications are now being accepted. There will be another cycle in August of 2014. A total of \$100,000 will be granted, with a minimum award of \$5,000. The deadline for submissions is 2/17 by noon. The CDBG Committee will make their recommendations by 4/8, and those recommendations will be submitted for approval by the Common Council at their 4/29 meeting.

Dungan reported the draft of the CDBG Funding Framework for 2015-2016 is still being revised but should be available within a week or so for this Committee's review. Dungan emphasized to the Committee that future CDBG funds for neighborhood centers and community gardens will be limited. The members of this committee were encouraged to advocate for community gardens by making our voices heard at upcoming CDBG Committee meetings where the public can offer input regarding the Funding Framework. Dungan will send future meeting dates to Fey and Schneider for distribution to members.

[14868](#)

Planning Update

No report.

[08283](#)

New Garden Fund

Nekola reported there are no applications for the New Garden Fund panel to review as of now.

15100

Garden/CAC Reports

Mathers updated the Committee on two projects for gardens where CAC has been contacted for guidance. One is the new Crowley Station garden to be located across from Essen House on City water utility land. The Downtown Gardens group is working with the First Settlement Neighborhood Association on this garden and CAC will only provide assistance if there is a low-income component. The other project is being organized around the Vera Court Neighborhood Center. They have been meeting with Community GroundWorks for guidance and will be planning on attending the Troy Community Gardens Steering Committee meetings in 2014 to learn how they manage their garden.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The decision regarding which date to meet in April was deferred to the February meeting or a subsequent meeting when more members are present. We did not have quorum at this point of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Gavin moved adjournment, Markofski seconded; meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.