



City of Madison

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

Tuesday, August 7, 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 5:05 by Co-Chair Schneider.

- Present:** 8 -
Nan Fey; Madelyn D. Leopold; Annette M. Nekola; Danna J. Olsen; Jill Schneider; Melissa Gavin; Joe Mathers and Nancy A. Dungan
- Absent:** 2 -
Yimmuj Yang and Joseph E. Muellenberg
- Excused:** 2 -
Matthew J. Phair and Luke Thao

Also present: Mark Woulf, Chris Brockel, Nancy Dungan, Joe Mathers, Peter Taglia, Sue Alioto, Dagoberto Cortez and Kate Odakowski.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Corrections to minutes of May 22, 2012: Danna Olson was absent; approval of minutes should reference April 24, 2012;

Item 26426: last sentence should read: "for 17.00 a yard."

Item 26427: paragraph should read: "starting a Food Coalition being lead.."; and paragraph 7 should read: "The Goodman Foundation.."

Fey moved approval of May 22, 2012 minutes with noted corrections; Nekola seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Fey moved approval of the June 26, 2012 minutes, Leopold seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Taglia – resident who lives near Brittingham Park (whose comments were affirmed by another member of the public who attended but did not speak - Sue Alisto) had read recent minutes from Community Garden Committee meetings related to possible community garden in the park. He wanted to share other thoughts on possible objections to locating a community garden in the park than were referenced in recent minutes. He has been a community gardener and supports expanded garden capacity. He is not so much concerned with issues of aesthetics in Brittingham as he is about garden use taking away from current active use of land at the park. He wants to preserve the contiguous open space in downtown parks, especially in Brittingham. Peter also commented that there may be other spaces available in the neighborhood for gardening and noted that while the Bayview Foundation has said they are not interested in exploring possible use of open space on their property he wonders if that space might not offer some better options and worth further discussion.

Peter reiterated that he is supportive of expansion of community gardens, but he is concerned that consideration be given to the question of what the best land use is for the limited open space in the downtown area. He suggested that the Garden Comm may want to evaluate the success of the gardens to be located in James Madison Park before pursuing gardens in Brittingham.

Kate Odakowski – also a resident in the Brittingham Park neighborhood. She commented that there are a number of new housing development projects currently under construction and others planned for near future, which will significantly increase the number of residents in the neighborhood. Most of this housing is marketed as non-student housing, and will undoubtedly increase the use of Brittingham Park open space. She is concerned that adding gardens to the Park has not been considered within the context of a longer-term plan for the Park and potentially competing demands. Commented that the question about whether a garden should be located in Brittingham should not be a question of support or need for community gardens, but gardens whether would fit with the larger plan and demands for park space.

Fey asked whether any other neighborhood meetings are scheduled to further discuss the idea.

Taglia thought an upcoming meeting of the Monona Bay Neighborhood Association may have the question on their agenda but did not think the alder has scheduled any other meetings at this time.

Joe Mathers shared that he thinks Alder Ellingson is working to establish a process for reviewing garden proposals that would include more neighborhood discussion of the issue.

Melissa Gavin clarified that the general concerns expressed by neighbors were support for maintaining existing contiguous open space within the park; the neighborhood has seen increasing use of the park as improvements have been made; and that they anticipate greater use of park space as a result of new housing development projects. A community garden in the park could limit other uses of the space currently enjoyed.

Danna Olsen asked if there might not be other site options in the neighborhood to be considered. Suggested that Kurt Brink is interested in the neighborhood and may have some ideas about other possible sites for garden expansion.

Joe Mathers reported that Kay Rutledge asked CAC to evaluate a possible site on Proudfit Street. Still reviewing the site, but there may be too many trees shading the area.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

[26427](#)

Coordination of City Activities/Overlapping Interests Related to Food, Gardens and Sustainability

Mark Woulf – introduced himself as the City’s Food and Alcohol Policy Coordinator. Mayor Soglin has a strong interest in food access and issues, and worked with Council to expand Woulf’s responsibilities to include food policy issues. In addition, the Common Council is currently considering a resolution to establish a Food Policy Council which would include a representative from the Community Gardens Committee. The existing Local Food Committee is an ad hoc committee, and the new Food Policy Council would be a permanent committee advising the Mayor and Common Council on food policy issues. In addition to a representative from the Community Gardens Committee, the proposed Food Council will include 22 other members. Woulf hopes the Food Policy Council will be established by October 2012. Woulf expects to attend future Community Gardens Committee meetings as he’s able, and will coordinate with committee co-chairs.

Fey reported that she was able to attend the July meeting of the Local Food Committee where the Mayor shared his experiences visiting food markets in different parts of the country as well as his thoughts on how the Local Food Committee might begin its work to establish a food market in Madison. Fey also attended the June meeting of the Dane County Food Coalition. (details below).

Chris Brockel reported that CAC is working with United Way to establish a 10 year plan to increase access to healthy food in the community. The Healthy Food for All initiative was the focus of the June meeting of the Dane County Food Coalition. CAC will be organizing a series of community meetings on different topics related to healthy food access. The next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 27th at 1:30 and will discuss food consumption issues. Future meetings will include distribution, production, and access. They also plan to hold a series of meetings with residents to gather input for the final report.

The initiative will also include an effort to poll the many agencies currently working in some manner on food and food access issues in order to gather information to improve collaboration and coordination among food agencies. Brockel expects the group to present findings in November 2012.

Brockel clarified the different food groups and initiatives:

- > Dane County Food Council - County committee - established in 2005 to advise the County on food and food economic issues;
- > Food Policy Council – City committee being formed in 2012 to advise the City on food related issues;
- > Dane County Food Coalition – coalition of individuals and agencies interested in food issues, coordinated by County Extension and began meeting in January 2012;
- > Healthy Food For All - CAC and United Way community initiative, initiated in 2012 to create a 10-year plan to increase access to healthy food.

Fey asked Woulf if he would generate a list of different food groups to include a brief narrative about what they do and how they relate to each other.

[25721](#)

Siting Gardens in Parks

Fey reported that the proposal to establish community gardens in James Madison Park through terracing will not be proceeding this year, primarily due to costs and competing uses for the original funds proposed for the project. Parks will re-visit the possible site behind Lincoln school for possible use in 2013.

Fey suggested the Community Gardens Committee work more actively work with Parks to make improvements to the garden approval process. Leopold and Fey will work with Kay Rutledge to draft revisions to Parks flow chart for review at the September meeting.

Olsen asked if Garden Comm. should include review and recommendations regarding establishment of roof top gardens on City buildings as well. Fey commented that roof top gardens would be a different discussion, but that the Park siting discussion would be relevant to the roof top issue.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

[18897](#)

CDBG Update

No updates.

[14868](#)

Planning Update

No updates.

08283

New Garden Fund - Working Group Update

Attachments: [Disbursement and Awards 2005 - 2012.pdf](#)
[Gardens Working Group ReportFINAL.pdf](#)
[New Garden Fund letter of Agreement 2012.pdf](#)

Nekola reviewed the materials distributed from the New Garden Fund Workgroup, and explained the short-term and long-term recommendations for the management of the NGF.

Schneider asked whether the recommendation should be reviewed by someone in the City Attorney's Office. Dungan will seek comments.

Schneider suggested a letter of agreement with CAC should include language requiring use of a segregated account for the NGF.

Fey moved approval of the workgroup's recommendations with suggested changes, and authorizing the transfer of the New Garden Fund monies to CAC. Seconded by Gavin, and unanimously approved.

Fey will include implementation of long-term recommendations on the Garden Committee's September agenda.

Dungan agreed to make changes to the draft documents and place the approved versions in Legistar.

15100

Garden/CAC Reports

Mathers reported that CAC is organizing CAC Gardens Day on Sept. 29th. This event will replace the Garden Bike Tour held in years past, hoping to involve greater numbers of gardens and attract more participants. So far, 12 gardens are planning to organize events.

Dane County Parks has offered land at Lakeview Hill Park on the City's north side for development of a new community garden. CAC has not yet assessed the site, but Freedom Inc. has met with a group of residents to gauge interest.

A new garden in Leopold Park recently opened and has held several workdays. Improvements include 6 tilled plots, a children's garden, community strawberry patch, demonstration area and space for a raised accessible bed. A core of volunteers is engaged.

Gardens for Empowerment - Brockel reported that CAC has been involved with a group in the Brentwood Neighborhood to help with front yard gardens, modeled after the Meadowood. Group which includes Public Health, Community GroundWorks, UW Extension, and CAC. Brockel expressed concern that Gardens for Empowerment may be duplicating existing work and would rather see residents work directly with CAC rather than start yet another group to work on garden issues. Dungan shared that information from the Brentwood Neighborhood. Resource Team suggested that Public Health may be interested in creating a Gardens for Empowerment pilot for duplication in other neighborhoods.

[08281](#)

Parks Update

No updates.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Schneider shared that The Farley Center has recently posted two job openings.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Olsen to adjourn, seconded by Fey and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.