



# City of Madison

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

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Tuesday, March 24, 2009

5:00 PM

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

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

**Present:** 7 -

Nan Fey; Betty Chewning; John B. Bell; Alice K. Anderson; Mai Chong Lor;  
Mary Malischke and Joe Mathers

**Absent:** 1 -

Monya A. Choudhury

**Excused:** 1 -

Andre Scaife

Other present were Annette Nekola, Janet Parker, Nancy Dungan, Justin Dean,  
Antonio Colas and Pablo Granados.

Rounds of introductions were made and explanation that Annette Nekola and  
Antonio Colas are considering joining the committee to fill the two vacant  
slots. Co-Chair Alice Anderson proposed reordering the Agenda to enable  
Nan Fey to report before she has to leave for another committee meeting that  
begins at 5:30. Everyone agreed.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the February 24th meeting were approved unanimously.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### NEW BUSINESS

Correspondence from Atwood Community Center re: "no tree cutting clause".  
This was being taken care of by CAC staff. Will talk about this and other lease  
"Special Conditions" under New Business next time.

Mary Malischke (using the example of Kate Sandretto's visit last time re:  
Demetral decision pace) thought that we need to make the Gardens Committee  
more visible to the gardening community and wanted to put that on the next  
agenda.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

## REGULAR BUSINESS - REPORTS

1. [08272](#) Garden/CAC Reports

Overall, there is a large upsurge in requests for garden plots according to registrars. Requests to consider alternation of CAC staff at Garden Committee meetings between Joe Mathers and Janet Parker. There will be a Quann presenter at the Language Exchange Conference talking about experiences there. The third garden staff position at CAC has been advertised. Quann will be "going it alone" this year with reduced staff support.

The New Garden Leaders gathering will be on Sunday March 30th. Hammersley Garden/CAC is working with the Public Health Nurse Kim Neuschel and Neighborhood Officer Mike Hanson, to host a May 16th street fair to introduce the garden to the Betty's-Hammersley-Loreen area residents with possible draft horse team on site that day. They have nine people interested already. There will also be involvement of a youth garden group (like at Meadowood). Both Prairie Hills and Meadowood (expanding 6 plots to limit) are facing setting plot limits.

Discussion related to question of do we need to set plot limit guidelines and 1 mile radius limits was referred to Plot Fee subcommittee. Reindahl will be conforming to general CAC norms in 2010 according to agreement and has made steady progress to that end.

Sheboygan is continuing to press the State to provide their on-site alternative option as no other location has passed the vetting process and the location at Hamilton/Van Hise has many impediments.

Urban Agriculture Zoning Code Working Group continues to get at what should go into the zoning code. Efforts to avoid conflation with community gardens while looking for areas of mutual advancement continue. The Madison Area Community Land Trust has a dedicated page containing much of the background information and meeting minutes at <http://www.affordablehome.org/urban-ag/index.html>

Enabling Garden community process at Troy is getting underway (this has long been a part of their plans in the area near the Children's Garden) but there were no details to report.

2. [08281](#) Parks Update

Janet Parker has joined the Parks Commission.

3. [08282](#) Planning Update

Zoning Code Rewrite is moving along.

4. [08283](#) New Garden Fund

The New Garden Fund subcommittee (NGF S-C) asked for guidance for the Gardens Committee regarding the approval of the application from Wisconsin Youth Company for \$600. Overall the NGF S-C felt it was a worthwhile project with merit, but the novelty of approach raised concerns and they felt it was not their place to set policy.

The main issues are related to the type of garden proposed (a permaculture design with largely communal food growing) and if it is more an institutional garden for the community, or a community garden with individual plots or something in between. There are concerns relating to the possibility of its being precedent setting and how will gardeners be involved in management. Those interested in helping with a working group to flesh out more clearly "what is a community garden?" are requested to contact Nan or Alice. It was suggested that Chris Brockel at CAC be invited as well.

5. [09055](#) Garden Plot Fees

Atwood: They are resolving issues of some large plot sizes and long wait list.

Troy: Letter upcoming to detail "what is city supported" (John B., Nancy D., Chris B.)

Marlborough: Seems to be little financial impact from those not in agreement with sliding scale. Survey to Coordinators: Will survey them re: Plot Fee Table to see if any issues. Will also encourage Shared Leadership across language/culture groups.

Waiting Lists: Will ask all Registrar's for their Waiting List in June (once all assignments have been made).

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

### COMMUNICATIONS

None.

### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.