



# City of Madison

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

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Tuesday, October 26, 2010

5:00 PM

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

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

**Present:** 10 -

Betty Chewning; John B. Bell; Annette M. Nekola; Andre Scaife; Alice K. Anderson; Jill Schneider; Melissa Gavin; Joe Mathers; Nicole M. Craig and Nancy A. Dungan

**Excused:** 2 -

Nan Fey and Kevin Schiesser

**Absent:** Melissa Gavin.

**Others present:** Chris Brockel, Joe Mathers, Nicole Craig, Jason Clay all from Community Action Coalition; Nancy Dungan and Charlie Sanders (CDBG) and Min Sun Lee - UW Journalism Student.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Corrections were made to the minutes from the July 27th meeting to correct the word gardener and strike the language under announcements. Alice Anderson moved to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Annette Nikola. The minutes were unanimously approved with corrections being made.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

### NEW BUSINESS

[18896](#)

Edible Landscaping on Public Lands.

Chewning. stated that there has been no breakthrough on the Fruits and Nuts requirement decision. City Attorney's office said Fruits and Nuts could not proceed because they need to be a 501(3)(C) in order to have the necessary insurance for this project. Betty said this item has not been on the agenda for the Parks Commission meeting and it is possible that it will be added in two months. Anderson said that Alders had been contacted and there is support for this effort. Betty said Satya Rhodes-Conway is a huge supporter of the project and said she would follow through on getting more support from Alders. Having the Alders address the issue at a Council meeting would be another way to resolve. Nancy D. will try to get more information on F&N. Parks wants insurance coverage and a contract to proceed with this program. Being a 501(3)(c) non-profit allows insurance to be paid. The public at large would be involved in both planting and harvesting of edible landscapes, more like flower garden volunteers, whereas Community Gardens are more restrictive.

20023

Consider Update of Committee Report of 2004-2007

Anderson said the last committee report is on the CAC website and that Janet Parker has drafted it. Is CAC able to draft something from 2007 to the present or should it be done by the Gardens Committee? Dungan didn't think CAC should draft it since they aren't taking note anymore. Anderson said CAC has more of the information available to them - should leadership come from the Gardens Committee?

Scaife asked if a gardens subcommittee should be formed to do the updating? He said there has been significant changes in community gardens in Madison and the surrounding areas. Nekola said she hadn't had time to read the report. The committee decided to table this discussion and come back with recommendations at the next meeting. The report should be posted on the CAC and Community Gardens websites. Craig will check to make sure the report is updated. Brockel. said there have been many changes after 2007. Mathers said the report should be included in the orientation packet for new members to the committee.

#### REGULAR BUSINESS - REPORTS

18897

CDBG Update

Charlie Sanders, rep from CDBG Committee will replace Monya Choudhury on the committee permanently. He enjoys gardening. Dungan mentioned that CAC's Comm. Gardens contract received approximately \$13,000 in new funding for 2011 from the City CDBG Office, which was a very nice surprise.

14868

Planning Update

None, since Fey was absent.

08283

New Garden Fund

Craig said that CAC is committed to getting more money for gardens. New applications can be picked up till November 1st and are due in January. The CAC panel meet in February and funds should be released in February or March which is earlier than last year. The applications have been changed to make it easier for applicants. The applications for new community gardens has been tremendous. There have been 7 or 8 new gardens for the last several years. Craig hopes to send out a press release regarding this. Funding comes from donations and 10% of the fees collected by the community gardens (\$2,143.00) so far this year with \$9,945.00 total funds available. Only 25% of the total funds are available for grant distribution. These funds help expansion and new garden projects. Scaife. asked if there were other options for fundraising requests? Craig passed out a new brochure called the Gardens of Dane County showing the location of the gardens in and around Madison along with information on how to get involved in the gardening efforts. Craig said the brochure is going out to many people. Craig also passed out a spreadsheet with all the gardens listed, location, # of plots, size, donors for the food, etc.

[08281](#)

Parks Update

Chewning gave update earlier in the meeting. (Edible Landscaping)

[15100](#)

Garden/CAC Reports

Craig mentioned that CAC had their annual Fall Harvest Potluck on October 23rd and 35 people came. This potluck was to show appreciation to the volunteers who worked on the gardens and helped close them up for the year. CDBG reporting had \$56,000 total for low income gardens – public housing supported gardens funding.

Craig also mentioned that there is a downtown rooftop gardens groups that includes Kevin Schiesser, from this committee. They are working with of four UW Engineering students on the feasibility of creating a garden on top of a parking garage. Craig indicated the students would like to present to the Gardens Committee. There is a Powerpoint presentation that the students could forward to the committee prior to the next meeting to give some background. Lisa Olmsted will forward it on when she receives it. A petition in support of rooftop gardens downtown was signed by 120 people. This brief presentation is to be added to New Business for the December 7th agenda.

Brockel mentioned that Fiskars has interest in funding new gardens with tools and staff time in Madison and is willing to spend between \$10,000 and \$13,000. There is discussion going on between Fiskars and CAC right now. Scaife wanted to know if Fiskars would want to name the garden after their company or other name recognition stipulations.

Brockel mentioned that there was 80,000 pounds of produce raised this year from gardens to help hungry people. There is a 50% increase in people visiting the pantries this year over last year.

Anderson asked what the status of the Sheboygan and St. Paul gardens was:

Mathers: The St Paul Garden is within the 30-foot width from centerline standard high-speed rail corridor envelope. A 20' option would allow the garden to remain relatively intact and is under consideration but no commitments have been made. If not then relocation will be necessary. The DOT has scheduled a meeting with gardener reps and CAC at the end of next month. Similarly the East Main Garden (informal) is marked for concern on their plans but no commitments made. Sheboygan Garden is probably safe for 2011 due to the State biennial budgeting process. State DOA is considering co-locating several State depts. to that site as a way of moving forward. DOA has not formally responded to a Sheboygan Garden group request that four "on-site" locations be considered in this planning. This was after all the off-site locations were found to be not suitable after a lengthy search process including City, State and CAC staff as well as Sheboygan Preservation Committee members and after repeated requests for the State to offer other options. Sheboygan presently has 85 households using 65 plots (with 25 on this summer's waiting list).

Mathers also passed out a photo of the Southdale garden. The plots are a bit smaller, and there are some fruit and nut trees on the borders.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Bell. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.