



# City of Madison

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

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Tuesday, June 28, 2016

5:00 PM

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

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order gby co-chair Jill Schneider at 5:07 pm.

**Present:** 8 - Steve King; Greg L. Rosenberg; Madelyn D. Leopold; Aislynn H.C. Miller;  
Annette M. Nekola; Sharon Lezberg; Nan Fey and Jill Schneider

**Others Present:** Eight visitors from a UW class.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lezberg made a motion to approve the minutes of April 26th with corrections.  
Rosenberg seconded the motion. Motion passed by a voice vote.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

### NEW BUSINESS

None

### OLD BUSINESS

Review Mission of Community Gardens Committee

Fey began the discussion by asking members for their impressions of the meeting with stakeholders on April 26th. The consensus of the group was that the committee's responsibilities have mostly been taken over by the Gardens Network, but several issues were raised. King expressed a concern about the liaison role he plays with the Plan Commission and Greg's role as liaison with CDBG. There may need to be somebody on the Food Policy Council who keeps track of upcoming garden projects; Fey will talk with Heather Stouder about the pre-application process for projects, and whether it could be an effective place to address this rather than needing a person on a committee. The Food Policy Council has the capacity to create workgroups or official sub-committees to address particular issues; members discussed pros and cons of informal workgroups and official subcommittees. The essential request from the committee will be for the Food Policy Council to take on these

responsibilities in the way that will work the best and give them a secure home. Mark can lead the committee forward at the July 19th meeting.

#### Sheboygan Gardens Update June 2016

Schneider reported that the Sheboygan Garden held an open house on June 18th that was very nice. The Common Council passed a budget amendment, sponsored by the Mayor, for \$6,400 to help with water installation (total cost is estimated at \$11, 400). The fence and the shed are both really nice. The resolution to look for other garden locations in the area (i.e. the long-term solution) was passed; Mark will meet with the staff team to create a workplan before he leaves on July 28.

### REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

#### Food Policy Council Update June 2016

Fey reported that they are preparing for a transition period following Mark's departure. The Willy Street Co-op is moving into Pierce's Market in the Northside Plaza, and several related projects have received funding through the Healthy Retail Access Program. The Co-op will be lowering their membership cost and stocking different items to be responsive to the community they are moving into.

#### Parks Update June 2016

Leopold reported that the Parks Commission's Long Range Planning Subcommittee is assisting with updating the Park and Open Space Plan in 2017. Input and outreach is scheduled for September through November of this 2016. There will also be field data collection through next year, gathered by people (many of them UW students) in the field to observe who's using park areas and for what purposes. These data collectors will check off a list of activities, and it will be interesting to see if gardens are included on the list.

#### CDBG Update June 2016

Rosenberg stated that CDBG has not met in the last couple of months. The group he's working with as a consultant on the Union Corners project remains committed to incorporating urban agriculture into the site plan. He also mentioned a group from New York City called "596 Acres" that does great work around gardens; its director may come to Madison in October and could be invited to speak at the Food Summit scheduled for October 24th.

Planning Update June 2016

**King and Fey will renew their conversation with Heather Stouder (recently named Director of Planning) about addressing community gardens during the pre-application development process.**

Gardens Network/Gardens Coalition Report June 2016

**Lezberg reported that there is an ongoing concern about the high cost of water, and noted there are other ways to improve soil quality besides compost. Dane County/UW Extension is organizing four workshops to educate gardeners, including one on composting.**

**Schneider reported that the Gardens Coalition held its 1st garden meeting at the Old Sauk Garden that has a very nice upper and lower garden with a drip watering system. They've persuaded the Water Utility to remove the sanitary sewer water charge from their bill so that could be something to look into. The Coalition will be visiting the Badger Prairie community garden in July and the American Family community garden in August. The Coalition will also be creating a workgroup to discuss issues that only come forward in a community garden setting.**

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

None

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The next meeting will be on July 19th. Ashleigh Hacker, who has been taking minutes for the committee, will be departing the Mayor's Office in mid-August to attend law school at UW-Madison.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**King made a motion to adjourn at 6:35 pm. Lezberg seconded the motion. Motion passed by a voice vote.**