



City of Madison

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

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

5:00 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room LL120 - Madison Municipal Building

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 9 -

Nan Fey; Betty Chewning; Annette M. Nekola; Andre Scaife; Kevin Schiesser; Jill Schneider; Melissa Gavin; Nicole M. Craig and Nancy A. Dungan

Absent: 2 -

Charlie R. Sanders and Joe Mathers

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were unanimously approved subject to the following changes: John Bell was present at the January meeting; Nicole Craig was not in attendance. The Planning update includes a spelling correction - second sentence should be "conference"; CAC Report second sentence should read: and the Community GROUNDWORKS Youth Grow Local Conference.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Jill Schneider asked for an item on next month's agenda to discuss the possibility to have the City pick up debris from Community Gardens a few times during the gardening season.
2. Invite Paul Hausmann from Madison Community Foundation to March or April meetings to discuss recommendations regarding management of New Garden Fund monies.
3. Have CAC provide update on possible funding cuts to federal CSBG funds and local CDBG if Madison federal entitlement funds are cut. Is there action for the committee to take to address funding cuts and impact on community gardens?
4. Report on the City's feasibility study regarding downtown community garden on new library rooftop. (Jeanne Hoffman?)

OLD BUSINESS

[20739](#) Recommendations for Updating the Committee Report of 2004-2007

Annette Nekola reported that the working group met once to review current report and has another meeting scheduled to begin revisions. Preliminary draft for Committee's review should be available at March or April meeting.

REGULAR BUSINESS - REPORTS

[18897](#) CDBG Update

No report.

[14868](#) Planning Update

Nan Fey reported that a public hearing on the draft Zoning Code revisions will be part of March 15 Common Council meeting. Urban Ag elements are aggregated in the revised code and available on line for review.

[08283](#) New Garden Fund

Annette Nekola reported that 4 applications for funding were originally received, with the Allied Dr project ultimately withdrawing their application because the property owner withdrew his support. The NGF Comm. met twice and completed site visits for the remaining 3 application and made the following recommendations:

\$600 to the Balsam/Leland Participatory Landscape Project, a multi-focused project in the southwest neighborhood.

\$900 to the Badger Rd Garden, a revived garden located on the City's southside on property owned by Fountain of Life Church. The Garden includes both family plots and a food pantry garden for Allied neighborhood. Many new immigrants gardening, along with Church members and other neighbors.

\$900 to Majestic Oak Neighborhood Garden on the City's northside. Located off of Packer's Ave on property owned by trailer park, principally serves residents of trailer park. Garden to include raised beds.

Recommendations were approved unanimously.

There was some discussion about the need to clarify and document a number of issues regarding the NGF. Suggestions included: history of NGF; roles of NGF Comm and Comm. Garden Comm; the need to replenish fund; and clarify purpose of NGF including funding parameters and limitations (e.g. no more than 25% of fund to be allocated each year, eligibility issues including City limits, types of gardening activity, geographic limitations, etc). Committee would want to ensure conversations with Madison Comm. Foundation and Comm Action Coalition are included regarding possible changes to the NGF.

[15100](#) Garden/CAC Reports

Nicole Craig reported that CAC just completed a successful Grow Together Conference, with over 100 participants involved, including many new immigrant groups. New gardens CAC will be working with this year will include Balsam/Leland, Badger Rd, Majestic Oaks, and Blackhawk School and Community garden. CAC will continue to work with the Central Park Design Comm. to support community gardens as part of the design. (see B. Chewning's Park report).

Budget discussions in Washington DC include the possibility of significant cuts to CAC's CSBG funding (50% to 100% cuts proposed in Obama and House budgets). CSBG reflects approximately 30% of Comm. Garden budget. Federal cuts are also being proposed for CDBG funding (7.5%) which could impact CAC's garden allocation from City of Madison. In addition, 1011 is CAC's last year of a multi-year grant support from Madison Comm. Foundation. Impact could be significant for CAC's Comm. Garden Program. They will know more about federal budget proposals at March meeting.

[08281](#)

Parks Update

Betty Chewning reported that Central Park Design Comm may have more land available than recently thought, and suggested the Garden Comm. may want to submit a letter supporting additional space be allocated for comm. garden use. Central Park Design Comm. is scheduled to meet twice in March, and Betty will bring a draft letter for Garden Comm. consideration at the March meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.