



City of Madison

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

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

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 by the Chair at 5:05 PM.

Present: 9 -

Steve King; Justin O. Markofski; Madelyn D. Leopold; Aislynn H.C. Miller;
Mee (Mimi) Vang; Nan Fey; Danna J. Olsen; Jill Schneider and Melissa
Gavin

Absent: 1 -

Annette M. Nekola

Others Present: Percy Mather, Greta Hansen (CAC).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Markofski and seconded by King. Motion passed on a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

[33479](#)

Proposed Community Gardens along the Southwest Bike Path (west of Odana Road on City owned property near Parman Terrace.

Percy Mather gave a presentation on a proposed community garden along the Southwest Bike Path near Odana Road on city-owned land.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

[32247](#)

Status of Community Gardens Program

Fey provided an update on upcoming meetings including Monday, March 31 to continue long-term planning for a program in 2015.

Greta Hansen, Executive Director of Community Action Coalition, thanked the committee members for facilitating the community meeting in early March. Hansen explained that since the last meeting several gardens staff at CAC have found new jobs, putting CAC in an impossible position to continue programming in 2014. The staffing changes will force, at the direction of the CAC Board, an end to the community garden program effective at the end of May. Hansen explained that CAC is trying to facilitate a smooth transition into the summer. CAC will hold all leases and insurance through 2014, even though it will be transitioning out of programming. CAC will also help facilitate the payment of water bills in working with the current gardens.

Gavin stated that she thought the main gaps left by CAC will be the leases, insurance, translation services, plot location for interested gardeners, and a general safety net for gardens for miscellaneous issues that arise. She explained it would be important for CAC to share copies of all of the leases as well as contact information for current garden leaders.

Woulf explained that the city is working with CAC on a press release to go out to notify the public of the end of the program and to highlight the work being done to fill gaps in 2014 and develop a program for 2015. The committee wanted to make sure that CAC was appreciated for their work in managing the program for over 25 years.

The committee discussed the importance of notifying garden leadership of the changes and gathering key information from leaders to be able to identify service gaps, especially for 2014. The committee came to a consensus that it was best to gather the current garden leaders through the Community Gardens Committee, instead of CAC. CAC agreed to send out a communication to garden leaders in advance of the press release.

Motion (Fey, Markofski): To authorize a working group of garden leaders of the Community Gardens Committee to convene garden leaders to prepare for transition.

Motion passed on a voice vote.

[31912](#)

New Garden Fund Issues

No update.

[31106](#)

Sheboygan Gardens Update

Fey reported there is a new state RFP that is being worked on through city planning.

[30629](#) Parks Department Pre-approved List of Improvements at Community Gardens

No update.

[28453](#) Garden Leadership for Long-Term Sustainability

No update.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

[28455](#) Food Policy Council Update

Woulf provided an update of the SEED grant program and edible landscapes.

[08281](#) Parks Update

Leopold provided an update on the Brittingham Park CG and the issue of fencing. The group applied for neighborhood grants and are hopeful an arrangement could be worked out with Brittingham Boathouse for a joint community event to install the fence.

[18897](#) CDBG Update

Markofski provided an update on the Emerging Opportunities Grant program.

[14868](#) Planning Update

Fey provided an update on a meeting she had with planning staff to discuss the possibility of making garden space available in new development projects. Staff explained that many developers are open to setting aside space, but are concerned about the long-term management of a garden. Ald. King stated that he thought alders should mention the prospect of a community garden when first speaking with developers since they are one of the first points of contact.

[08283](#) New Garden Fund

No update.

[15100](#) Garden/CAC Reports

Royster Clark is interested in CG, but need management of the garden.

Vera Court is having start up issues, but is expected to install 24 raised beds.

Bayview garden is getting a fresh look with CDA involved.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Markofski made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Leopold, at 7:07 PM.