



# City of Madison

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
www.cityofmadison.com

## Meeting Minutes - Draft COMMUNITY GARDENS COMMITTEE

---

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

5:00 PM

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

---

### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

**Present:** 10 -

Nan Fey; Monya A. Choudhury; Betty Chewning; John B. Bell; Annette M. Nekola; Andre Scaife; Alice K. Anderson; Mary Malischke; Joe Mathers and Janet Parker

**Absent:** 1 -

Yee (Shrewnaoxai) Ythao

**Excused:** 1 -

Mai Chong Lor

**Others present:** Patty Zehl, Nicole Craig, Melissa Gavin.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Nan Fey made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Annette Nekola. The motion passed unanimously.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### NEW BUSINESS

[16010](#)

Schedule of meetings in 2010

They will continue with same 4th Tuesday of the month Schedule, 5:00 Time and the July and August Recess. The proposed 2010 dates are: 1/26, 2/23, 3/23, 4/27, 5/25, 6/22, and then starting up again on 9/28, 10/26 with the last meeting to be decided among the dates of either Nov. 23, Nov. 30, or Dec. 7 (as last meeting date of year). Members are asked to report back their preference at the next meeting.

14862

Communication with Gardeners

General discussion around whether there is enough and its effectiveness. General consensus was that garden leaders are linked by leader listserve, another broader gardener listserve, the CAC Garden E-Newsletter is reaching many gardeners, and of course the City Gardens Committee Agendas and Minutes themselves are readily available to the public. There was also mention of recent urban agriculture webpage and related listserve hosted by Madison Area Community Land Trust (as an additional forum where ideas and projects can be discussed before they are brought forward to this Committee. (see <http://www.affordablehome.org/urban-ag/muaow.html>) Finally members expressed that the new CAC Garden E-newsletter is a great resource with special appreciation to the efforts of Janet Parker.

16009

Theft Issues at Community Gardens

Mathers related that several members of the Madison Police Dept attended the recent Garden Leader gathering on the topic of theft. MPD relayed that they and the department in general are not aware of the scope and effects of theft upon the many area community gardens. They suggested that community gardens be discussed at the district, patrol and shift level so that they may play a more useful role. Mathers conjectured that the Committee might play a role in initiating this discussion (much like we have with other City departments) over the late winter or spring so as to have this communication in place in time to benefit the gardeners (and before our recess). He thought a simple outreach to build awareness (where gardens are located, how they operate, what the issues and timing are with theft, etc.) would go a ways towards making the MPD into a partner as well as take some of the onus off the garden groups. There was also discussion of many of the suggestions that paralleled those made at the workshop regarding personal contact, explanatory and pre-emptive signage, and the summary of that workshop will be sent out to the Committee. Item to be continued.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

16011

Sheboygan Gardens Letter

Malischke relayed thanks for the Committee's efforts and related that the letter would be sent along shortly to the Hill farms Redevelopment principal staffers as well as copied to relevant elected State representatives. Members requested a list of those copied.

## REGULAR BUSINESS - REPORTS

### 15100

#### Garden/CAC Reports

Anderson read excerpts from a Janet Parker submission relating to these gardens: Truax is moving out on its own, Burr Oaks is doing well (but still no water), Reindahl working with an active and wider leadership committee, will be renamed "Virginia Oliver Garden" in recognition of her many years of service and is poised to expand. Quann is likewise successfully autonomous and the location of a new anthropology and art installation by Julia Steege. A successful large Garden Leaders Gathering was held at Sheboygan with 40 in attendance. Nicole Craig reported that Marlborough has 3 youth programs involved, John Bell related that Troy has held successful Harvest Fest, Compost Workshop, and Apple Pressings. He requested follow-up on getting a listing of prior City support efforts at Troy to present to the new committee members. The recent Will Allen (of Growing Power) talk in cooperation with the WI Humanities Council was very well attended (est. 350) and generated much enthusiasm. It was preceded by a special garden leader session with him and these leaders were then available afterward to focus smaller discussion groups. Mathers related the accepted Offer to Purchase of the former Badger School as an urban agriculture (including community gardens/green job/community center) includes Growing Power as a principal partner along with Center for Resilient Cities and the Madison Area Community Land Trust and that detailed information is on their webpage at <http://sub.resilientcities.org/content/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx> . . Finally, this year's Mayor's Bike Tour featured the 4 recently developed southwest gardens (Hammersley, Meadowood, Orchard ridge, Prairie Hills) with good turnout and engagement with special thanks to Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ for preparing a lunch and providing live music.

### 08281

#### Parks Update

Chewning asked about how Parks allocates land for gardens, and if there is a list of potential sites that could be advertised given the surge in demand; and how sites get chosen. Mathers responded that generally CAC responds to those vetted through the New Garden Fund process but that occasionally Parks comes forward with an opportunity especially if there has been recent citizen interest, i.e. a garden closing or there is a redevelopment that involves Parks (like at Quann and at Eken).

As to announcements, the New Garden Fund grants are promoted through all Madison neighborhood associations, press releases as well as through garden channels.

### 14868

#### Planning Update

The Zoning Code Rewrite draft is now in referral to committees. Community gardening will be a permitted use in virtually all zonings. The new urban agriculture overlay district will require a master plan and approval. Farmers Markets can also be located in more zoning categories than before. There will be a presentation on community gardens to the Natural Step group on October 13.

[08283](#)

New Garden Fund

The NGF committee will meet October 14. Four group donations have come in thus far (Reindahl, Waunona, Atwood, & Quann).

[09055](#)

Garden Plot Fees

Seven plot fee surveys were returned by coordinators. Good comments but felt need for more returned to get fuller picture. The Garden Plot Subcommittee will schedule a meeting to review comments and suggestions.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Michael Pollen will be speaking at The Kohl Center this Thursday, September 24 and at "The Food for Thought" Festival Saturday, September 26.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Nekola relayed that Atwood has found that some people have plot(s) at another garden as well and wondered if there was a way to track the scope of this.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Nan Fey made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Monya Choudhury. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:17 pm.