



City of Madison

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

Tuesday, December 2, 2008

5:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 7 -

Monya A. Choudhury; Nan Fey; Betty Chewning; John B. Bell; Maichong Lor; Mary Malischke and Joe Mathers

Absent: 2 -

Andre Scaife and Renee E Stellpflug

Excused: 2 -

Linda F. Hoskins and Alice K. Anderson

Also attending was Chris Brockel from Community Action Coalition.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by _____ and seconded by _____ to
Approve the Minutes with suggested additions/corrections. The motion was
passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

Mary Malischke was approached about land on the far west side and wants to
discuss the topic in February.

REGULAR BUSINESS - REPORTS

1. Calendar for 2009

Proposed dates are January 27, February 24, March 24, April 28, May 26 (note May 25th is Memorial Day), June 23. no meetings in July or August, September 22, October 27, November 24 (note November 26 is Thanksgiving, so consider moving to December 1.)

The calendar above was adopted on motion from Monya Choudhury and seconded by Betty Chewning with one date change from November 24th to December 1st due to Thanksgiving holiday. Room 108 in the City County Building will be reserved for next year.

2. [08272](#)**Garden/CAC Reports**

Still doing last-minute plowing and field work at several sites, especially where it is required for lease compliance (Moorland and Waunona). Leadership transitions at Moorland and Reynolds are underway. Pertzborn Plumbing informed CAC that they will not be able to work on the three west side water installations (Prairie Hills, Meadowood, and Hammersley) until after the beginning of 2009. The Hammersley startup meeting is scheduled for mid-month. CAC has a web site link to the New Garden Fund on the City's Community Garden page (<http://www.cityofmadison.com/residents/communitygardens/index.cfm>). The Letter of Appreciation to Ben Sommers for his service was made unobtrusively at a farewell gathering with the Waunona gardeners.

3. [08281](#)**Parks Update**

Betty Chewning stated that the Parks Dept. is very supportive of community gardens for what they bring to the community. Their biggest problems are alcohol abuse/other related misuse in more isolated areas and having more people using the park positively and in an organized way can help with that.

4. [08282](#)**Planning Update**

Nan Fey reported that the Zoning Code Rewrite is in high gear, that there is lots of information on their website, but relatively little yet on Open Space or Urban Agriculture. Greg Rosenberg of the Madison Area Community Land Trust has convened an urban agriculture and community garden focused group to have input into the Zoning Code Rewrite Advisory Committee. They are looking into whether to push for urban food growing as a "permitted use" (as opposed to not being mentioned at all), other cities' related zoning language, and issues with using public right-of-ways.

5. [08283](#) New Garden Fund

Chris Brockel reported that the New Garden Fund (NGF) process is under way, materials have been updated, applications have been sent to all who expressed interest and general announcements will be out by the end of the week.

Chris explained that the Madison Community Foundation grant (MCF) has some funding to help start new gardens but questioned whether the NGF process was the best way to vet it? NGF only covers City of Madison, has enough to do already and there are start up requests from Middleton, Oregon, Town of Madison, and Fitchburg to deal with. There is also the part of the MCF grant that targets food pantry gardens and possible interest from St Vincent's and Centro Hispano on that score. Also, the amount available in the NGF is only around \$1,700 for this year. Finally, Waunona (\$176.00) and St. Paul (\$40.00) and Marlborough Park (\$169.00) have sent in their donations adding bringing the NGF to \$1808.55, which is 25% of the total funds (\$7,234.20) held by Madison Community Foundation.

6. [09055](#) Garden Plot Fees

Attachments: [Garden Plot Fees \(English\) March 2008.pdf](#)
[Garden Plot Fees Spanish 2008.pdf](#)

Report of issues identified at last meeting.

Nan F. reported that the plot fee subgroup decided to keep this year's New Garden Fund awards as grants (instead of loans) as there was no prior preparation done to either alert people of this or to manage the change; the subgroup also elected to keep the grant area within the City of Madison for this round.

Atwood: Have requested information from Community Center staff.

Troy: Given that there has been extensive City support already (\$371,000 purchase of land, city compost & mulch, direct CDBG grants, CAC technical support, etc.) conclude that Troy comes under City-supported category.

Marlborough: No legal challenge to plot fees, and gardeners will continue with honor system of reporting. What about plots at two or more gardens? A question will be added to the application to cover this.

Subgroup to-do list: Add line to plot fees table, use Ben's donation request letter to groups, do survey of leaders to see what they are experiencing.

Subgroup will meet before next Garden Committee meeting. Monya Choudhury mentioned that a lot of progress has been made on this!

Discussion of issues identified at last meeting.

It was noted that the agenda item "Announcements" was overlooked. Joe reported that Drumlin Garden group and the developer, The Alexander Company, had several meetings to resolve the garden's lease status, but were not successful. What this means for the future there remains unclear.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Monya Choudhury and was seconded by John Bell. The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.