



# City of Madison

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

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Tuesday, October 27, 2009

5:00 PM

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

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

**Present:** 9 -

Nan Fey; Monya A. Choudhury; Betty Chewning; John B. Bell; Annette M. Nekola; Andre Scaife; Alice K. Anderson; Joe Mathers and Nicole M. Craig

**Absent:** 1 -

Yee (Shrewnaoxai) Ythao

**Excused:** 2 -

Mai Chong Lor and Mary Malischke

**Others present:** Janet Parker, Cailly Hammel, Stephanie Hartwig and Patty Zehl

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alice Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 22nd meeting. The motion was seconded by John Bell and the minutes were unanimously approved.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Janet Parker was invited by Nan Fey to give a report of her next work at the Farley Center for Peace and Justice, now that she has moved from CAC. Janet will be working with community gardeners and a small farm incubator project at the Farley Center.

### NEW BUSINESS

Suggestions for Future Meetings were:

1. Term expirations. Several committee members' terms expire in January. All committee members are asked to look at their term expiration date, decide if they'd like to continue on the committee, and report back at the next meeting.
2. Role of the New Garden Fund subcommittee.
3. Theft Issues at Community Gardens. The discussion of theft issues at community gardens that Joe Mathers brought up at September's meeting will be continued at the January 2010 meeting, when Mathers will be present.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 16010 Schedule of meetings in 2010

Members reported upon their preference for a November/December meeting in 2010. The final list of meeting dates in 2010 is January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27, May 25, June 22, September 28, October 26, and December 7.

## REGULAR BUSINESS - REPORTS

### 15100 Garden/CAC Reports

Nicole Craig gave a CAC report on activities from the past month. Gardens are holding workdays and closing for the season, and Craig and Mathers have been working with gardens to shut off water and plan for fall plowing. Craig and Janet Parker gave a presentation in October to city staff who have been trained in the Natural Step method during a panel gathering exploring sustainable food options in Madison. Craig relayed that many interested groups have been in contact with CAC staff about starting or expanding community gardens in 2010, and a list has been compiled of nearly 20 potential garden sites.

There is also an increased interest in gardens at many schools around Madison. Several of the schools interested in gardens for 2010 would like to also include a community, plot-rental garden as part of their school garden project. Following up on the increased interest in school gardens, Craig is working with Community GroundWorks at Troy Gardens staff and volunteers to plan a youth gardening conference to be held late February 2010. Craig also relayed that there is also a potential for community gardens to be part of the urban agriculture project at the former Badger School. Aside from other work, Craig and other CAC staff are working on demographic reporting for 2009 grants received. Lastly, with Janet Parker's recent move from CAC to the Farley Center, a garden specialist position will be posted and a hire will occur at the beginning of the year.

### 08281 Parks Update

Betty Chewning talked with other Parks Commission members, including Bill Barker and Kay Rutledge, to find out more info about parks standards for establishing community gardens. Other commission members weren't familiar with any existing set of criteria, but there was interest in creating one. Past informal standards allowed for community gardens in parks of 10 acres in size or larger. Nan Fey suggested that parks commission members involved in long-range planning for the parks attend a Community Gardens Committee meeting to discuss the matter. The committee encourages Betty to move forward to connect with appropriate parties in the Parks Division.

[14868](#)

Planning Update

Nan Fey gave update on zoning code. Draft code has been referred to five committees for feedback within 45 days. The Plan Commission is working its way through the draft code prior to public meetings. Urban agriculture and market gardens language has not been altered since Nan's report to the committee during the summer. Implications of the zoning code rewrite would include the need for community gardens that are not large enough to create an urban agriculture district but large enough for the occasional need of large machinery, such as for plowing to let the City Planning Division know of such activities,

[08283](#)

New Garden Fund

Panel will be meeting Thursday, Oct 29th to establish a set of criteria to incorporate into next year's application to assist the panel in deciding which applicants merit grants. The current fund balance as of last week is \$8,466.80, not including Troy's recent addition. John Bell reported that Troy will contribute \$700 to the fund, accounting for 10% of their garden fees and current balance.

The New Garden Fund panel at their meeting will be discussing updates from Wisconsin Youth Company garden, which was the sole applicant for a New Garden Fund grant last year. Nicole will follow up with Mariah Miller of the Wisconsin Youth Company for an update.

Nancy Dungan referenced a recent email conversation about setting policies and procedures for New Garden Fund grants. The panel will discuss this matter at their meeting and report back to the committee.

[09055](#)

Garden Plot Fees

The Garden plot fees working group at their last meeting incorporated suggestions received from other members about the survey that had been previously sent out. As they didn't have as many responses as desired, they will send out the survey and letter again. One of the suggestions that has been incorporated into the latest version of the survey is asking for the person who is filling it out to identify themselves and their garden so that the working group can better gauge responses. Another addition to the survey was adding more information about the New Garden Fund on question 5. Surveys should be turned in by November 25.

There was discussion around whether Midvale School and Community Garden should receive a letter and survey. The committee decided that since they receive city compost and have adopted the city's fee schedule that they should receive a survey. In addition to the letter and survey, Nicole Craig sent around an email reminder to garden leaders who will be receiving the surveys via the garden leaders listserv.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Nicole Craig announced the Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable gathering will be happening Saturday, November 7 from 8 am until 12pm. She will be presenting information on community gardens on a neighborhood sustainability panel organized by MG&E.

**COMMUNICATIONS - NONE**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Monya Choudhury made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Annette Nekola. The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.