



City of Madison

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

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

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; Joe Mathers; Nicole M. Craig and Kevin Schiesser

Others present: Nancy Dungan and Jason Clay (CAC)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

PUBLIC COMMENT

REGULAR BUSINESS - REPORTS

[08281](#)

Parks Update

Betty Chewning reported on her search for documentation of the Parks Commission or Parks Division policy toward community gardens. Betty read from a 1999 report written by Dan Stapey, former Parks Division head, which mentioned that community gardening is a desired activity in Madison parks, and that city parks of more than 10 acre in size will accommodate 1-2 acres for community garden plots. Betty has found that the decision to site community gardens in a park depends upon that particular park, the footprint of the garden, and the park's master plan. This approach has not been reworked since the 1999 report.

Betty also reported on an amendment introduced in 1999 by Archie Nicolette – Resolution 56757 – that contained language supporting community gardens and was unanimously passed by the common council. John Bell mentioned that the resolution included unfunded recommendations that were not enacted. The City Community Gardens Committee was formed instead.

Nan added that the 2006 comprehensive plan references a Parks and Open Space plan, which may not exist.

The committee encouraged Betty to work with the Parks Commission to push for a Parks and Open Space plan to be created and include a policy on community gardens.

[14868](#)

Planning Update

14868 Planning Update

Nan Fey reported that the zoning code rewrite process is delayed. The public hearings that were originally planned for February or March have been delayed.

[08283](#)

New Garden Fund

Alice Anderson reported that the subcommittee had reviewed 7 applications and that the site visits were concluding. The panel will meet again March 1 to determine its recommendations on funding.

On February 3, Mariah Miller from the Wisconsin Youth Company, the recipient of a New Garden Fund grant in 2009, reported upon their new youth garden. The garden's location was moved closer to the building due to neighborhood violence. The kids were originally not interested in participating in the garden work, but have warmed up to it. The youth have been participating in garden activities and cooking and the program's goal this year is to grow and prepare a meal for the youths' families. Pictures were shown of the gardens implementation, development and youth participation.

Annette Nekola mentioned the shortage of funds, and inquired what the role of the committee is in regards to generating funds.

Nancy recommended that the committee could review the New Garden Fund's role during the next meeting

[09055](#)

Garden Plot Fees

Nan Fey passed out draft copies of the new garden plot fee schedule and cover letter. The letter to garden coordinators will thank them for their participation in the survey and explain the changes made in the plot fee chart. Nan will work with Alice and Chris Brockel(CAC) to finalize these changes.

The plot fee schedule will be revised every 2 years to ensure that the county and federal guidelines are current.

[15100](#)

Garden/CAC Reports

Nicole Craig introduced Jason Clay, the newest CAC Community Gardens employee.

Nicole reported that the Youth Grow Local youth gardening conference that CAC held with Community GroundWorks on February 20 was an overwhelming success. Over 140 people participated from all over Wisconsin, and many others had to be turned away due to space constraints. Because of the interest in youth gardens, the CAC Community Gardens bike tour with the Mayor will highlight youth and school gardens this year.

Nicole is working with the New Garden Fund to review the 7 applicants to the fund.

CAC is administering grant funds for the Share Your Harvest Grant through Madison Community Foundation. There are 22 applicants to the grant.

CAC community gardens staff are working around Madison to prepare for spring. Nicole reported on potential community gardens that are expected in 2010: McCormick, Darbo, Meadowood Baptist Church, Allied container garden project, and Lindbergh Elementary. Several food pantry garden creations or expansions are likely in 2010. Burr Oaks and Reindahl community gardens will both be expanding.

Outside of Madison, there will be new community gardens in Southdale Park (Town of Madison) and Cottage Grove and an expansion of an existing community garden in Stoughton.

Kevin Schiesser reported that the Brittingham community garden's leadership has talked with Kay Rutledge of Parks Division and that the group will begin surveying neighbors. The committee encouraged Kevin to attend a Parks Commission meeting to present their proposal for a garden in Brittingham Park.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - There were none.

COMMUNICATIONS - There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

John Bell made a motion to adjourn and Kevin Schiesser seconded the motion. The motions passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:06 .p.m.