



City of Madison

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

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

5:00 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 103A (City-County Building)

Please contact Lisa Olmsted at 266-4611 by 4:00 p.m. on May 26, 2010 if you will not be able to attend the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m.

Present: 10 -

Nan Fey; Monya A. Choudhury; John B. Bell; Annette M. Nekola; Andre Scaife; Alice K. Anderson; Antonio Colas; Joe Mathers; Nicole M. Craig and Nancy A. Dungan

Absent: 2 -

Betty Chewning and Kevin Schiesser

Other present: Joe Mathers, Nicole Craig, Nancy Dungan, Judy Skog and Percy Mather

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After correcting a typographical error, the minutes from April 27, 2010 were approved. The motion was made by Annette Nekola and seconded by Monya Choudhury. The motions passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Percy Mather and Judy Skog asked the committee to examine the impact of the city's potential requirement of a lease and liability insurance for urban orchards. Mather is working to install a small orchard in Wingra Park and Skog would like to implement edible landscaping in Piper Park. Both have been working with the Madison Fruits and Nuts group. There was a recent Parks Commission meeting addressing the issue that was well-attended by people objecting to the lease and insurance costs. This committee may discuss the matter at the June meeting.

NEW BUSINESS - None.

OLD BUSINESS

[18592](#)

Update of Discussion on Committee, CDBG and CAC Roles.

There have been several recent questions during committee meetings about the committee's role related to the greater urban agriculture movement and how the city should be involved. Dungan and Fey recently met with Bill Barker (Parks Commission chair) and Joel Plant (Mayor's Office) to discuss these issues. They will report back the results to the Parks Commission and this committee.

For the question of taking minutes during committee meetings, Bell volunteered to take minutes for the June meeting. Lisa Olmsted has offered to staff the committee starting in September.

REGULAR BUSINESS - REPORTS

[08281](#)

Parks Update

No report was available from the Parks Department (Chewning was absent).

Bell attended the May 12th Parks Commission meeting and said that there were about 20 people in attendance speaking in objection to the lease and liability insurance proposed requirements for urban orchards in parks. The commission voted to refer the issue to its July meeting.

[14868](#)

Planning Update

Fey reported that there will be a public hearing at the Plan Commission meeting of June 21st on the draft zoning code. Community gardeners are invited to attend and comment.

[08283](#)

New Garden Fund

Anderson gave an update on one of the projects funded by the New Garden Fund, the Allied Neighborhood Container Garden project, which assisted Allied Drive residents in planting five gallon buckets and raised beds with flower and vegetable plants. There was discussion about the flexibility of the panel in approaching non-traditional project proposals. Dungan suggested that this committee can help the panel decide what projects are appropriate and to facilitate the grant review process.

[15100](#)

Garden/CAC Reports

Craig mentioned that CAC staff has been busy with spring time work, but the gardens are open and the gardening season has begun well. The Allied Neighborhood Container Garden project had a planting day and celebration with the Allied Wellness Coop, Timebank, and other organizations on May 22. About 100 residents attended, and many took home five gallon buckets with flower or vegetable plants to tend.

CAC has been working with Madison Community Foundation to develop a brochure, which will be completed and printed soon. Craig passed around a draft of the brochure for informational purposes. The brochure will be mailed out to potential donors to the CAC Gardens Program and the New Garden Fund.

The Badger Road garden at Fountain of Life Church has been revived, with several churches collaborating to start anew this community, youth, and food pantry garden. The garden will open June 5.

CAC is collaborating with the Northside Farmers Market in the month of June on a used garden tool collection. Garden tools will be available in July to youth and community garden groups.

Mathers reported that Sheboygan community garden has a waiting list of 25 people. He is continuing to work with the garden on their relocation efforts.

COMMUNICATIONS

Anderson shared a thank-you note from the Allied Neighborhood Container Garden project, through the Allied Wellness Center that came to the New Garden Fund panel via Madison Community Foundation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dungan reported that the CDBG office and Office of Community Services have started a two-year funding cycle. There have been some changes in how funding is decided. Dungan stressed that the category in which community gardens are funded is more competitive and has fewer funds available.

Choudhury mentioned that funding decisions will be made in August and can bring the schedule for public hearings to the June meeting. Community gardeners are encouraged to attend in support of gardens.

Fey mentioned that a regular CDBG report hasn't been a part of the agenda, and it will be added to the agenda for the June meeting.

Fey noted that the Common Council has voted and Colas is now an official member of the committee. Anderson mentioned that the committee is still short 2 members and she will be stepping down as soon as a replacement is found.

Choudhury announced that the June meeting will be her last committee meeting. The CDBG office will fill her position on the committee for the next meeting in September.

Bell shared a report found from an ad hoc garden committee in 1999. Fey will have the report digitized to be made available on the City's website, CAC and the UW Urban and Regional Planning Department.

The committee currently has two vacant seats. Members should be thinking about people who might be interested in serving on the committee, and invite them to attend a meeting as a guest.

ADJOURNMENT

John Bell made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Annette Nekola.
The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.