



City of Madison

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

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

5:00 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 108 (City County Building)
Madison, WI 53703

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm.

Present: 8 -

Nan Fey; Betty Chewning; John B. Bell; Andre Scaife; Alice K. Anderson;
Mai Chong Lor; Mary Malischke and Joe Mathers

Excused: 1 -

Monya A. Choudhury

Also attending were: Greg Rosenberg, Jane Morris, Kevin Schiesser, Rachel Mallinger, Leslie Schroeder, Gary Tipler, Janet Parker and Tim Cordon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Nan Fey made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 24, 2009 meeting. The motion was seconded by John Bell. The minutes were unanimously approved.

NOTE: Because Greg Rosenberg needed to attend the 5:30 Zoning Code Rewrite Committee meeting, the following item was taken out of order at the request of the Chair.

3. [14868](#) Planning Update

Greg Rosenberg related that an Urban Agriculture District will be a part of the new Zoning Code. This was done after nine months of work drawing primarily upon other ordinances; chiefly the Rock Mountain Land Institute Model Ordinance and City of Cleveland Urban Agriculture district. What you can do everywhere (subject to the same local conditions and approvals as now) is non-commercial community gardening. What needs new approval is to rezone to commercial urban agriculture. There is still lots to discuss and decide (scale, appropriate locations, conditions), but this is a step forward along that path.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jane Morris has gardened in many places around Madison over the years traveling to get a plot. She is interested in working to get a garden (including rooftop) and promoting urban agriculture in downtown Madison, where she lives.

Gary Tipler and Leslie Schroeder spoke as members of the Eastside Garden Coalition which are also seeking gardening spaces on the Isthmus and near eastside. Members come from seven neighborhoods. They have held three meetings since February, discussing various sites and other approaches including shared yards, stalled developments, etc. They have looked into Central Park, and asked about Demetral. (Joe M. mentioned that there likely would be some decisions made soon at an upcoming meeting of all the principals).

Tim Cordon said there would be a meeting on May 12th at the Link Friendship House re: Urban agriculture and mentioned the Voit Farm as a possibility the City should "take over." He was asked whether he had any conversations with the Voit's or was aware of their intentions or how many efforts there had been over the years to engage them in planning for that property. He was also cautioned that approaching a property owner can be a delicate matter and may be disruptive of other efforts.

NEW BUSINESS

1. [14870](#) Lease - "Special Conditions" - by Joe Mathers
2. [14873](#) Communications with Gardeners - Mary Malischke

Mary suggested that the Gardens Committee needs to make more effort to connect with gardeners and raise their awareness of accessing the Committee to address their issues. The Leader Survey could ask questions about their knowledge of the working of the Gardens Committee. Minutes and Agendas could be regularly forwarded to the Garden Leaders listserve. John Bell stated that it was crucial to work to expand thinking to beyond one's own garden. In addition, should we be posting to the Permaculture and Yahara Food-Farm Coalition listserves?

There was a request to check whether Lisa Olmsted would be able to do any of this, as part of the meeting announcements or whether we would need to find another approach. Also mentioned was the question of "should the Committee also look into web hosting itself and setting up a discussion format?"

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

REGULAR BUSINESS - REPORTS

1. [14869](#) Garden/CAC Reports

Gardens continue to be in full swing, with many having wait lists and still very high interest all around.

Hammersley: On track with outreach and enthusiastic children's component forming (like at Meadowood).

Southwest Water: Contractor is committed to work in early May.

Sheboygan Relocation: The State's commitment to any on-site locations is still not resolved and the only off site location has many issues. The Sheboygan Garden Preservation Committee is pressing them to analyze four on-site options based on their own development scenario's (two at grade and two as rooftops).

Atwood: An all gardener meeting was held and they discussed how to manage large waiting list and doing "accelerated replacement" of non-performing and under-utilized plots.

Eagle Heights: Similar issues with big wait list; some angst over how to handle non-performing and under-utilized plots.

2. [08281](#) Parks Update

Demetral meeting of all players as referenced earlier.

4. [08283](#) New Garden Fund

The committee recapped that historically, there have been many applicants but this year there was only the one from Wisconsin Youth Company and it was a different approach. The New Garden Fund Committee (NGFC) voted to grant \$600 if the conditions of soil test, long term use and alder approval were met. The group plot approach raised questions as to what a community garden is and was referred to the Garden Committee for future reference. There was a motion by John Bell and second Betty Chewning, to accept the NGFC grant recommendation and report with the three conditions above.

The issues of "how does the NGFC make grant decisions as things become more complex?" and "how do we determine and rank the various criteria?" are questions that will be addressed by reconvening the NGF (Alice A., Annette N., John B. Andre S. and Chris B. or a CAC staff designee) and others. The target is to have this sorted out for the whole Garden Committee by October so work will need to be accomplished by the end of September. Annette and Trish H. will convene.

5. [09055](#) Garden Plot Fees

No action.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Betty Chewning and was seconded by John Bell. The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.