



City of Madison

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

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

5:00 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room LL-110 (Madison Municipal Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by co-chair Fey at 5:06 pm.

Present: 7 - Greg L. Rosenberg; Madelyn D. Leopold; Annette M. Nekola; Nan Fey;
Danna J. Olsen; Jill Schneider and Melissa Gavin

Absent: 2 - Steve King and Aislynn H.C. Miller

Others Present: Nancy Dungan, Mark Woulf

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Fey made a motion to approve the minutes of March 24th. Leopold seconded the motion. Motion passed by a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Gavin suggested that the question of the future of the committee be discussed at a future meeting. Fey suggested we let the Gardens Network and the MOU process proceed and then discuss the issue after that time.

OLD BUSINESS

[37709](#)

New Garden Fund Issues March 2015

Fey noted that everyone should have received documents from the New Garden Fund working group to review prior to the meeting. It was pointed out that none of the short-term recommendations for what should be done with the New Garden Fund monies, as described in the "Report on Working Group on Investment of New Garden Fund, dated August 7, 2012, were implemented,. The money is currently held by Madison Community Foundation. We will address the issues as listed in the document distributed prior the meeting entitled, "New Garden Fund – Issues for discussion at the 3/24/2015 meeting of the City Community Gardens Committee.

Fey asked the committee for thoughts on whether Community GroundWorks (CWG) should be the owner of the funds or if that would create a conflict of interest. Schneider suggested seeing if we can find somebody to hold the money and set guidelines that the money is to be set aside for gardens.

Woulf stated that Madison Community Foundation has told him that the existing monies in the New Garden Fund should be used exclusively for the establishment of new gardens and that perhaps further money collected could be used for expansions or improvements at gardens. CGW is concerned that they may need more flexibility in the usage of the money as certain gardens will need funds for improvements. There's no concern by anyone that the money will be used incorrectly, only that it's set aside for the New Garden Fund.

Fey suggested it might be beneficial to have an advisory body with representatives from each organization of the Gardens Network? Decisions would be made by people with a broader picture of the community gardens landscape. Olsen suggested having somebody from CGW on the advisory board. Dungan voiced concerns about this being viewed as just a fund. It's important that it should be for gardeners. Woulf stated that it relates directly to the role of gardeners in the whole program. The discussions at the February 28 Summit were important to getting garden leaders organized and important in answering questions about the New Garden Fund.

Fey stated that the group does not need to come to a consensus on who should hold the money today. The group should just identify important issues.

Woulf stated that the best role the committee could play would be to give Community GroundWorks their recommendations.

The Committee discussed keeping a small group in place that goes out and looks at gardens and makes recommendations to an advisory board. They could then request that CGW write the checks to the gardens. CGW would act as a fiscal agent. Fey explained that a description of the process as it works now needs to be written up and presented to CGW with the question of what part they want to play. Fey stated that the group should get to work on ideas and get them all on paper and the group can discuss later what will and what won't work.

Committee created a "Use of Funds" List:

- Add new gardens
- Add existing gardens
- Infrastructure
- Garden leadership training
- Expansion beyond city to include DaneCounty
- Public or privately owned land
- Documenting the need

Fey asked the group for ideas on the grant process. Committee discussed removing the restriction that up to 25% of garden plot fees can be used. The committee agreed that a garden can apply every year. Group discussed restrictions on the amount that could be requested. Olsen suggested that requests should be up to \$10,000 because that's what is needed for a new

garden to be established. Gavin suggested that the grant not be limited since it is a small amount of money anyways and there could potentially be only one applicant. Olsen clarified that they would not necessarily give them the entire amount requested.

Fey suggested that the group stop at the fundraising question of the New Garden Fund document and asked that those who have worked on this process write up how it works. Nekola agreed to work on this and will ask Shelly Strom to provide input.

Goal is to resolve these issues over the summer months, June - July.

37710

Status of Community Gardens Program March 2015

Woulf reported that they are continuing to move forward with MOU's. The RFP for CDBG funds was posted and there was at least one application. Dungan reported that they are working on the resolution and are looking to get the contract out the 3rd week in April. Woulf is working on the resolution authorizing the signing of MOU's between the City Community GroundWorks and Dane County UW Extension.

37711

Sheboygan Gardens Update March 2015

Fey had nothing new to report. Negotiations have been quiet and not reported to the public. Gardeners will be able to use their plots this season and plan for a possible move in the future.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS**37712**

Food Policy Council Update March 2015

Fey reported that the Food Policy Council approved \$50,000 worth of SEED grants to nine projects, one of which is a food pantry garden. The FPC received an introductory training about The Natural Step from the City's Organizational Development and Training Officer, Karl van Lith. TNS is the sustainability framework adopted by the City of Madison in 2005 and utilized for various projects and initiatives by staff and committees, e.g. the Pollinator Protection Task Force. A new Public Engagement workgroup was formed to explore how to better involve under-represented parts of the city. Fey passed around a draft progress report that the FPC will be publishing that describes its work for the first two years of its existence.

Woulf reported that the FPC will be the review committee for the RFP for the low-interest loan to get a grocer into the Allied Drive neighborhood. They are hoping to learn from the process and get adequate proposals.

37713

Parks Update March 2015

Leopold reported that Tracey Hartley was unable to make it to the meeting but she did let the group know in advance and offered to have her supervisor come.

The Parks Assistant Superintendent position has not yet been filled.

Leopold discussed ways gardens could have more visibility through the Parks Division. Suggested perhaps a press release when the MOUs with the Gardens Network, leases and insurance have all been resolved.

Fundraising is under way for a decorative fence around the Brittingham community garden. Its purpose is not just to keep rabbits out but to be a part of an art installation project. Findorff and the Madison Community Foundation are sponsors.

[37719](#)

CDBG Update March 2015

Rosenberg reported that the Neighborhood Planning Process would be a good thing for the committee to keep tabs on in terms of options for gardens. Rosenberg will keep his eyes open and talk with Susan Morrison about encouraging Neighborhood Planners to think about gardens.

[37720](#)

Planning Update March 2015

Fey reported that King is aware of the Hill Farms Neighborhood Plan and will make sure it gets referred to the gardens committee. Should also ask the Planning Unit to include urban agriculture as a regular topic in neighborhood planning processes.

[37721](#)

New Garden Fund March 2015

Covered under item 37709.

[37722](#)

Garden Report March 2015

Schneider reported that a group of leaders at the Garden Summit indicated they would be interested in forming a garden leaders group. Schneider emailed them shortly after the meeting to keep momentum going. They will be meeting at Pinney Branch Library on Thursday, March 26. She is expecting about 12-15 people. Jack Kloppenburg will co-convene the meeting with Schneider. Temporarily they are being named "The Gardens Coalition". The group will review the draft Gardens Network Governance Model and talk about the need of a voice for gardeners, the purpose of the coalition, the type of gardens that should be represented, how to communicate with gardens effectively, the leadership structure of the coalition, and how to choose representatives to the Gardens Network Administrative Team and Advisory Council

COMMUNICATIONS

Fey reported that the movie "Food Chains" is being shown at the Monona Terrace on Thursday night.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Nekola made a motion to adjourn at 7:12 pm. Leopold seconded the motion.
Motion passed by a voice vote.