



Office of the Mayor

Paul R. Soglin, Mayor

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March 4, 2016

Dear Community Gardens Stakeholder,

The City of Madison Community Gardens Committee (CGC) has conducted an extensive review of its mission and responsibilities in light of the recent changes in community gardens programming in the City and County. As a part of that review, the CGC identified several priority areas that are in need of additional work and oversight. We spent significant time talking through which entities/organizations are already working in these priority areas and projecting which might be in the best position to take responsibility for them now and into the future. These are the areas we identified:

- Land Availability and Security – Mechanisms for planning and acquiring additional public and private land for gardens will be necessary, especially as land costs rise. One of the significant challenges for community gardens is to ensure sustainability through long-term use agreements.
- Programmatic Support – In order for community gardens to be self-sustaining, there needs to be a broad base of stakeholders engaged in developing strong and inclusive programming. A strong program should include methods to invest directly in gardens in need.
- Improved Garden Infrastructure – There are gaps in functional infrastructure that support gardens that are beyond any one program; for instance, community available compost.

The committee did the best job it could with the expertise at the table; however, it is important to hear from our colleagues in the gardens realm to complete our review. It would be of great assistance to the committee if you could attend one of its next meetings to provide feedback and participate in this important discussion. We meet again on Tuesday, March 22, and Tuesday, April 26 at 5:00pm in Room LL-110 of the Madison Municipal Building, and respectfully request your presence at whichever turns out to be convenient for the majority of stakeholders.

Please contact Ashleigh Hacker in the Mayor's Office by March 11th via email at ahacker@cityofmadison.com or via phone at (608) 266-4442 with your availability to attend either or both of these dates so we can choose the date and put the discussion on our Agenda.

Thanks so much for all you do to support community gardens!

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Nan Fey in black ink.

Nan Fey
Community Gardens Committee Co-Chairs

Handwritten signature of Jill Schneider in black ink.

Jill Schneider