



City of Madison

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

Tuesday, June 28, 2011

5:00 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room LL110 - Madison Municipal Building

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Co-Chair Nan Fey with a quorum present.

Present: 10 -

Nan Fey; Charlie R. Sanders; Betty Chewning; Annette M. Nekola; Andre Scaife; Kevin Schiesser; Jill Schneider; Joe Mathers; Nicole M. Craig and Nancy A. Dungan

Absent: 1 -

Melissa Gavin

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Monica Adams and Z Haukeness (of Freedom Inc. which works with Bayview area residents) are helping people to secure land for gardens, especially Brittingham Park, and were looking for input on a resolution to the Common Council (and maybe also Dane County); they were encouraged to find alders to sponsor the resolution and bring it back to the committee when it was fully drafted. Jane Ann Morris spoke in support of additional downtown community gardens.

NEW BUSINESS

Joe Mathers suggested that the committee, given all the current activity, should consider holding meetings in the summer months.

OLD BUSINESS

[20739](#) Updating the Committee Report of 2004-2007

The most recent draft was approved, with some additional edits provided by John Bell. Next step is to make it accessible to the community for posting it on the City's and CAC's websites. It should also be provided to the Mayor, members of the Common Council and CDBG staff.

Council Representation: Fey had spoken with the current president of the Common Council who said this must be taken up with the Common Council's Organizational Committee. The issue will be placed on the agenda in September for an update.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

[18897](#) CDBG Update

No report.

[14868](#) Planning Update

Fey reported that attendees at the Congress for the New Urbanism had been very impressed with Madison's local food networks and enjoyed their tours.

[08283](#) New Garden Fund - Madison Community Foundation Account

The committee did not feel adequately prepared to discuss this situation and deferred making a decision until the fall so additional information could be gathered. Chris Brockel (CAC) is in the process of creating a list of options for the possible transition from a pass-through fund to an endowment.

[15100](#) Garden/CAC Reports

Jason Clay reported that an Edgewood student, Drew Carlson, would be conducting a "visioning process" with people in the Darbo-Worthington neighborhood. The program Movin' Out would have 4 plots near Ella's Deli. The Blackhawk School garden was installed and dedicated on May 26th (with the help of a Fiskars grant). There may be 12 plots available at a church in the Arbor Hills neighborhood on the south side. A group of Nepalese gardeners received training at the Farley Center, and forty kids in 4-H groups are participating in programs at Troy Gardens and Fitchburg Fields. Chris Brockel (CAC) was on television explaining the "Plant a Row for the Hungry" program. The Evjue Foundation has granted funds for gardens outside of the City of Madison.

CAC is experiencing budget problems and may have to cut staff in the community gardens program by one-third. The proposal is to cut all three current staff members' time in December. CCBG is also looking a big cuts, and the Madison Community Foundation, and United Way funds are coming to an end. CAC managers Greta Hansen and Chris Brockel met with the Mayor and his staff (Katie Crawley) to discuss these problems recently.

[08281](#)

Parks Update

Presentation on Downtown Gardens was made by committee member Kevin Schiesser. In connection with the Central Library green roof feasibility study, three downtown parks were explored as potential locations for community gardens. Committee member Kevin Schiesser showed slides of James Madison, Olin-Turville and Brittingham Parks, noting areas where allowable uses could include community gardens, photographs of those areas, and identifying nearby amenities (e.g. water sources, parking) and challenges (e.g. shading, possible soil contamination). No action was taken, but further investigation was encouraged.

COMMUNICATIONS

A group in the 39th ward had contacted Schiesser and he will share the communication with the committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Annual Bike Tour, scheduled for August 27th, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, will visit Sheboygan, Old Sauk, Gammon and Eagle Heights Community Gardens. Vincent Smith, a UW graduate student researching community gardens, will be giving a lecture on his findings on July 8th in Science Hall on the UW campus - the public is invited. Troy Gardens will be holding its annual Savor the Summer event on August 6th from 3:00 - 7:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.