



# City of Madison

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
www.cityofmadison.com

## Meeting Minutes - Draft COMMUNITY GARDENS COMMITTEE

---

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

5:00 PM

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

---

### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

**Present:** 11 -

Nan Fey; Matthew J. Phair; Madelyn D. Leopold; Annette M. Nekola;  
Joseph E. Muellenberg; Luke Thao; Jill Schneider; Melissa Gavin; Joe  
Mathers; Nicole M. Craig and Nancy A. Dungan

**Excused:** 2 -

Yimmuj Yang and Kevin Schiesser

**Others present:** Nancy Dungan, Joe Mathers, Michelle Shively, Katie Crawley,  
Kay Rutledge, Matt Tucker, Satya Rhodes-Conway, Bridget Maniaci, Michael  
Gourlie, Eileen Tierney

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Fey moved to approve the October 25th minutes – motion seconded by Phair –  
unanimously passed. Fey moved to approve the December 6th minutes –  
Gavin seconded – unanimously passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT - None.**

**DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS - None.**

### SPECIAL ITEM OF BUSINESS

**24639**

Beekeeping Ordinance - The Common Council has referred the draft ordinance to several committees, asking for feedback and recommendations. Zoning Administrator, Matt Tucker, will explain the ordinance, answer questions, and gather for feedback and recommendations.

**Attachments:** [Master21-Nov-2011-01-59-36.pdf](#)

Matt Tucker from the City Zoning Department, gave a presentation explaining the beekeeping ordinance in its current form. A sub-ordinance is being created to make setback lines from property lines and buildings more flexible.

Rhodes-Conway spoke, explaining the bigger picture of the ordinance. She explained that problems with the ordinance have been ignored in the past and Zoning has always had to deal with those problems. The zoning code has no beekeeping included but it should be. She mentioned bee colony collapse is happening all over the world and that there is a greater need for bees –especially for gardens and ecology. She feels the City should support this.

The ordinance has been sent to the Health Dept. and Sustainable Design and Energy and now Community Gardens, to collect ideas for any amendments to the ordinance.

Leopold asked how much a beekeeping license is - \$10.00. Phair asked how close colonies could be to be homes? Gourlie (Dane Co. Beekeeper's Association) said 10 feet would be adequate. He said there is a perception of danger which is important – responsible beekeeping is necessary. The Beekeeper's Association will give training and information to potential beekeepers. The Association recommends having no more than 6 hives. Gavin asked if a condominium association wanted to raise bees, could there be more than 6 hives per owner? Tucker said no.

Fey motioned to recommend support with discussed modifications, Phair seconded – the motion passed unanimously.

## OLD BUSINESS

25111 Update from Parks Departments regarding recommendations for community gardens at Brittingham and James Madison Parks.

Discussion of Parks' review of possible sites at both Brittingham Park and James Madison Park. Parks is currently recommending a small site (9 plots max) near the volleyball court. There is no shade and good access. Parks is looking at another possible location in northern part of park. Will continue to work with CAC to consider viability.

There were three potential sites being considered at James Madison. Parks has some concerns about water access, security and proximity to lake for a site preferred by neighborhood association. Parks' concern about proximity to lake is about potential runoff into lake. Also concerned that site is not visible from street and may pose safety issues for gardeners. Fey noted Parks has to balance different uses at well-used parks, and would hope Parks would consider the high demand for garden space in the downtown area as it considers competing demands. Eileen Tierney, a Tenney Lapham resident talked about support by neighborhood group to put gardens at this site.

Parks' preference at this time is for the site above a garage. There are questions about whether there is adequate structural support to put a garden on top of the parking garage leased to Urban Land Interests. Joe Mathers reported that ULI is opposed to putting a garden on top of the garage. City Atty says the use is OK according to lease agreement. A garden at this site would probably be limited to raised beds, and be limited to 15 plots. Fey commented that, based on a presentations made to the committee in the past (by UW Engineering students and the Central Library Feasibility Study), rooftop community gardens are extremely expensive and offered to forward this information to the Parks Department.

Ald Maniaci commented on the importance of gardens in this park, the lack of gardening opportunities, limited green space downtown, and the transportation concerns many downtown residents have using outlying gardens. She commented that James Madison Park is relatively large, and while it has many other uses, felt that the park could accommodate a community garden. The preferred site of neighborhood group is relatively

underutilized area of the park and placing gardening activity there would make the area more safe.

Joe Mathers asked how other users of this area of park address the isolation and safety concerns? He also commented that the rest of the park is very highly used, and he would not recommend placing a garden in an area that would break up or limit activities in the other areas of the park. The site by the lake is out of the way of the other areas and Joe thought it could exist without disturbing other uses.

Kay Rutledge shared that in addition to expressed neighborhood desire for community gardens in the park, Kevin Briski has received responses from other residents expressing concern about gardens in the park and he has to weigh other interests, and would keep in touch with Garden Committee as Parks' continues its review process.

25112

Review process used for decisions regarding community gardens in city parks and determine where committee could provide input.

Attachments: [Edible Landscapes Gardens Review Process.pdf](#)

Rutledge gave a presentation on the review process for public gardens and edible landscapes. The Parks Dept. currently receives all requests for Community Gardens in city parks, and has the applications. Community Action Coalition checks to make sure the garden conforms to the site. Schneider asked if CAC should meet with potential gardeners first? Should Gardens be involved in the process? Fey suggested that the Edible Landscapes in Parks Process should be added as an attachment in Legistar. Leopold asked if CAC should be the organization to start the process? Schneider wondered if the Gardens Committee should be involved in the process sooner and how would that be accomplished?

Maniaci suggested including the Gardens Committee on the flow chart and also asked where the committee would be most helpful and how soon they should be involved. Leopold suggested CG be included at the very beginning of the process.

Suggestions about Parks decision process chart:

1. Create separate decision charts, one for gardens and one for edible landscapes
2. Inform Garden Committee of requests for garden in park in the first large box.
3. Parks staff should utilize Parks' rep to Garden Committee for information on proposed gardens in parks, during the "Initial Request Evaluation" phase of the flow chart, so the Committee can stay informed of the progress and decisions.

Suggestion to explore what information might be put on CGC website re Parks' garden decision process.

25114

Committee discussion regarding two recent community garden studies: Growing Our Own: The Socioeconomic Value of Community Food Production (by Vince Smith) and Exploring The Social and Spatial Characteristics of Community Garden Placement in Madison, Wisconsin (by

Robbie Greene.)

**Attachments:** [Vince Smith Study - CAC Executive Summary.pdf](#)  
[RobbieGreeneMastersPresentation 2012.pdf](#)

This item was referred to the next meeting.

#### REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

[15100](#) Garden/CAC Reports

[18897](#) CDBG Update

Bill Clingan has resigned as Community Development Division Director, effective 3/2/12. The February meeting of the CDBG Committee will include a report on funding of neighborhood centers (which is included in the same funding category as community gardens.)

[08283](#) New Garden Fund - Subcommittee Recommendations

Five applications have been received, four of them proposed for locations in parks. The review committee has \$2,600 to allocate and will bring their funding recommendations to the Community Garden Committee's February meeting.

[08281](#) Parks Update

**Attachments:** [Email from Sam Stevenson re James Madison Park.doc](#)

[14868](#) Planning Update

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Emily Iris Craig has made her appearance and parents, (mother, Nicole Craig who served as a resource for the committee from CAC) and daughter are all doing well.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Fey moved to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Nekola. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.