



City of Madison

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

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

5:00 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 108 (City-County Building)

Present: 10 -

Nan Fey; John B. Bell; Annette M. Nekola; Andre Scaife; Alice K. Anderson; Kevin Schiesser; Jill Schneider; Melissa Gavin; Joe Mathers and Nicole M. Craig

Absent: 2 -

Betty Chewning and Nancy A. Dungan

Others present: Charlie Sanders from CDBG.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Anderson/Nikola moved to approve the minutes from October 26th with corrections. The motion passed and the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

Members of the body should make any required disclosures or recusals under the City's Ethics Code.

None.

5. NEW BUSINESS

6. OLD BUSINESS

[18896](#)

Edible Landscaping on Public Lands.

No report.

[20739](#)

Recommendations for Updating the Committee Report of 2004-2007

Nikola asked how the committee should proceed to update the report. Fey suggested discussing with Bill Barker, who played a significant role in the 2004-2007 report. Janet Parker had originally put the information together on the New Garden Fund and it should be easy to update. Craig said she would like to see a subcommittee formed to work with CAC on this. The subcommittee members are: Schiesser, Bell, Craig and Nikola. Fey will review the current report and send suggestions for areas that should be addressed in the update. The first meeting of the committee will be the first or second week of January.

REGULAR BUSINESS - REPORTS

[18897](#)

CDBG Update

Fey asked Charlie Sanders, who chairs the CDBG Committee, for an update - Sanders said CDBG will furnish seed money.

[14868](#)

Planning Update

Fey reported the Plan Commission and Common Council have approved the Resilient Cities Resource Center on Badger Road and there is good information in Legistar about it. Fiskars Company is looking for a garden project to fund in Madison and has talked to CAC about supporting the food pantry garden program. Fey also pointed them to Badger Park and the Center for Resilient Cities, as well as the CDA for a possible project in the Allied Drive redevelopment.

[08283](#)

New Garden Fund

Craig said their panel has 8 members and applications are due January 14th. The panel will review applications in February and funds should be released by the end of February or sometime in March. Troy Gardens will reapply and Badger Rock Middle School may apply.

[08281](#)

Parks Update

No report since Chewning was absent and no report could be given..

15100

Garden/CAC Reports

Craig reported there was an increase in their funding and they are very happy about that! They are supported by both CDBG and CSBG. She met with Nancy Dungan to discuss expanding the number of gardens. She believes around 580 families - many more families applied this year. They are working on their winter conference to be held on February 19, 2011 from 9:00 to 1:00 and will partner with other organization with similar focus. Leadership focus tracks are being developed for the various workshops. Word will be spread widely about the conference.

CAC is also working on a leadership survey asking gardeners how they can be helped. They are also developing a phone survey asking gardeners to step up into leadership roles.

Fiskars may be funding one of three sites located at Balsam Road and Russett Road, Blackhawk Middle School and Allied Drive. The Balsam Road and Russett Road sites have an apartment building that could have the front and side yards planted, similar to the one that was completed on Russett Road this summer. Blackhawk may be modeling their gardens after the one at Lindburgh School where seniors would work with the children and harvest food for the Kennedy Heights neighborhood. The Allied Drive site is actually in Fitchburg just south of the Boys and Girls Club, the Allied Wellness Coop and includes CDA housing. The Dane County Time Bank work help workers earn hours as they work with mentors and would be able to take the food they grow home. Fiskars should be making a decision on their funding sometime in December.

Michele Shively, this year's Vista volunteer at CAC, reported they received a Share Your Harvest Grant which funded twenty gardens this summer. They had 127,000 pounds of produce which was donated to various food pantries. They will continue to do this in 2011 and hope to do more educating on the subject on the CAC website.

Mathers reported there will be 100 refugees locating to the north side of Madison area next year - 60 Nepali and 40 Iraqi

Schneider asked if Fiskars was only funding one project. Fey said they might do a total of four projects nationally, but only one in Madison. Fiskars mentioned funding a community gathering space and may create gardens spots but are open to different ideas for 2011. Craig added they have a Master Gardener on their team who works with Home Depot for purchasing their plants. They are good at involving the local community in their projects.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

Anderson mentioned she was stepping down from the Gardens Committee, having served since November 2004. John Bell's term is expiring in January but he agreed to stay on for the 90 days after that until a new member could be recruited. Anderson said she will be serving at the Eagle Heights gardens. She said solar lights had been installed at Eagle Heights at a cost of \$900 and the installations were done by UW students. She said she would be glad to send the specs to other gardens if they would like to consider doing the same thing. She also said it would be great to have more representation from all gardens, especially from the minority groups.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A separate schedule of 2011 meetings was handed out to committee members and Fey encouraged them to make these meetings a priority and to get them on their calendars. The meetings next year will be moved to Rooms LL110 and 120 in the Madison Municipal Buidling beginning in January.

9. ADJOURNMENT

John Bell motioned that the meeting be adjourned and the motion was seconded by Annette Nikola. The motions passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.