



City of Madison

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

Tuesday, May 26, 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 5:04 pm.

Present: 7 - Greg L. Rosenberg; Madelyn D. Leopold; Aislynn H.C. Miller; Annette M. Nekola; Nan Fey; Danna J. Olsen and Jill Schneider

Absent: 1 - Steve King

Others Present: Shelley Strom, Mark Woulf

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Schneider made a motion to approve the minutes of April 28, 2015 with corrections. Nekola seconded the motion. Motion passed by a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

NEW BUSINESS

[38563](#)

Review Mission of Community Gardens Committee May 2015

Fey opened discussion on the 1999 Community Gardens Report. In the 1999 report there are references to resolutions. Fey looked for the 1990 and 1997 resolutions but was unsuccessful. Fey asked that Mark and Ashleigh try to track down these records.

Schneider pointed the group's attention to the draft resolution, ID #25840, found at the committee's page on the Mayor's website, questioning whether it was adopted or not. Olsen stated that she found information that the resolution was adopted November of 1999.

Fey stated that for today's purposes, they should use the information in the 1999 report to inform their thought processes and have a record of people's desires at key points. The group reviewed the Action Plan Recommendations in the 1999 report to determine what has or has not been accomplished.

-Pg. 33: There have been advancements made in some of these areas (gardens in zoning code, master lease, etc.)

-Pg. 34: Recommendations regarding Parks Division: Need to review current Park and Open Space Plan to see if these recommendations were addressed. Leopold did not think they were.

-Pg. 36: Has a "garden coordinator" staff person been added to Mayoral staff? Does the committee deem that staff role necessary?

-Pg. 36: Parks is hoping to deal with water systems going forward. Woulf stated that this is not exactly worked out yet

-Pg. 36: Is refuse pickup on the same schedule as residents? They need coordination within Streets so everybody is on the same page.

Olsen questioned what the committee can do to ensure that the document has teeth? Woulf stated that it's advisory to the Mayor and Common Council and advisory to Community GroundWorks. It is a matter of categorizing the clear role of the committee in terms of who they are getting what information to.

Schneider questioned whether we have accomplished the creation of a grant program in the form of the New Garden Fund. Perhaps, more specific operational issues can be handled by the Gardens Network and this committee could focus more on advocacy.

Fey stated that Schneider did work on creating a document that highlights the mission and vision statements of various gardens' related entities: Gardens Network, Gardens Coalition, Madison Food Policy Council, Dane County Food Council, City of Madison Community Gardens Committee, and Madison Area Master Gardeners. Rosenberg offered to review it for overlapping missions/visions and gaps. Rosenberg suggested making another grid of unfinished business to see what items no one is really working on.

Fey shared the study Fertile Ground which established a need for an advocacy board, with the committee.

OLD BUSINESS

38564

New Garden Fund Issues May 2015

Nekola stated that there's supposed to be a discussion of the transfer of funds from Madison Community Foundation to Community GroundWorks. Woulf stated that this has not happened yet and they are waiting to see where MCF is, as travel schedules have gotten in the way. The committee can begin conversations on what they would recommend going forward. Woulf stated that he would think MCF would want the money that was previously collected to be used for new gardens. Schneider questioned MCF's ability to dictate the use of the money for new gardens only. Woulf explained that the 10% of garden fees donated by community gardens was going to CAC. Those funds were labeled "new garden fund". When CAC wrote the check to MCF for the new garden fund, they became responsible for distributing funds. Their understanding is that the money is for new garden funds. Rosenberg stated that it depends on what documents they were provided with at the time of the money transfer in terms of allowable uses. Woulf explained that this will be at the top of the agenda for the meeting with MCF. Fey stated that then the committee can look into applications this year.

[38565](#)

Status of Community Gardens Program May 2015

Woulf stated that the master lease was approved by the Council. It needs to be finalized and signed with the MOU, which will happen soon. When the approvals are finalized the next step is for the Gardens Network to get regularly scheduled meetings established. There is a meeting of Extension, GroundWorks, and the City in the first week of June. They are looking at August for the first meeting of the Advisory Team but it has not been confirmed yet. In terms of who may serve on the Advisory Team, the Gardens Network is working on formalizing the process.

[38566](#)

Sheboygan Gardens Update May 2015

Fey stated that soil borings were taken from the garden but they did not impede timing of the planting. People were able to plant as usual this spring.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS

[38567](#)

Food Policy Council Update May 2015

Fey reported that the FPC did create an electronic 4 page progress report that tells people what they've been doing. The FPC got \$100,000 in the budget to create a grant program for places focused on healthy food retail. The FPC created criteria and guidelines for applicants.

The Pollinator Protection Taskforce is working on the draft report about current practices from departments and recommendations. They are hoping to have the report done by August. The taskforce is going on a field trip around the city on June 4th to look at no mow areas, golf courses, etc. to inform recommendations on when we can do more no mow areas, managed meadows, and rain gardens.

[38568](#)

Parks Update May 2015

Leopold reported that the last Parks Commission meeting didn't make quorum. Leopold shared information on the Parks Division volunteer policy, so when the Pollinator Taskforce looks at volunteers they must comply with this policy. Leopold hopes that there is someone of high level within the Parks Division on the committee of 5 – perhaps Charlie Romines. There needs to be a conversation between Mark Woulf and Eric Knepp.

Fey stated that we must be careful with what we ask for and create a legitimate need. Schneider stated that it seems like we need a Gardens Coordinator at the City.

[38569](#)

CDBG Update May 2015

Rosenberg stated that he was out for the last CDBG meeting. He met with Susan Morrison about getting urban ag into the neighborhood planning process. He will send out an email to some City staff in terms of whether they've thought of that. Fey asked that Rosenberg loop her and Alder King in on these discussions to eliminate the push from multiple directions.

[38572](#)

Planning Update May 2015

No Update

[38570](#)

New Garden Fund May 2015

Discussed under item #38564.

[38571](#)

Garden Report May 2015

Strom reported that there is a pile of compost in the Extension parking lot that is still available to all. They are now working on donated seedlings and figuring out how to make them available to gardens. There will be more information to come. Community GroundWorks has now hired a full-time staff person for gardens as well as two interns. Truax is up and running after the relocation of the garden due to building construction. They are delineating the plots and they brought in top soil and compost. A pollinator border was planted at Brittingham.

Schneider reported that the Gardens Coalition met. They formed sub groups to work on various projects including garden tours, goals, and resource mapping to see which gardens have what and determine what we can do to borrow from each other. They did some additional outreach to bring in more leaders from Dane County gardens.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

On June 27th Troy Gardens will hold their Savor the Summer event. There will be food and ice cream.

On June 13th there will be an herb workshop at Crowley Station from 4 pm to 6 pm. There is a \$5 suggested donation.

As part of leadership development, there are talks about doing more neighborhood based garden tours.

ADJOURNMENT

Rosenberg made a motion to adjourn at 6:55 pm. Nekola seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.