



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes COMMUNITY GARDENS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 4, 2015

5:00 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room LL-110 (Madison Municipal Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Greg L. Rosenberg; Aislynn H.C. Miller; Annette M. Nekola; Sharon Lezberg; Danna J. Olsen and Jill Schneider

Absent: 1 - Nan Fey

Others Present: Madelyn Leopold, Karen von Huene, Mark Woulf

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the minutes of May 26, 2015 with corrections. Rosenberg seconded the motion. Motion passed by a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

NEW BUSINESS

[39427](#)

Review Mission of Community Gardens Committee August 2015

Schneider asked committee members if they understood the policies and recommendations that had been identified from the 1999 report in Grid #1. Committee members responded in the affirmative. Schneider thanked the committee members for work done on Grid #2 and asked them to review Grid #2 and send all comments to her and Fey by August 31st. They will continue to fine tune the document from now until the 31st.

Rosenberg requested that Grid #2 be sent out electronically. Committee members discussed what the "Ongoing" column of the grid means. The committee defined it to mean that the issue has been addressed (Ongoing?=No) or is still outstanding (Ongoing?=Yes).

Schneider explained that once comments and additional information have been gathered for Grid #2, prior to the September meeting, Schneider and Fey will attempt to determine which organization from Grid #1 may be best suited to address the outstanding issues. That attempt will be referred to as Grid #3 and will help determine the committee's mission going forward.

Leopold requested that Public Health be taken into account. Schneider stated that she would check with Fey, as she may have already asked Public Health for input.

OLD BUSINESS

[39428](#)

New Garden Fund Issues August 2015

Karen von Huene stated that the Gardens Network/Community GroundWorks has an executed agreement with Madison Community Foundation (MCF) regarding the New Garden Fund monies. The agreement is basically the same one that CAC had with MCF; however, the addendum to this agreement has been changed from CAC to Community GroundWorks. All of the original language for the New Garden Fund is in there. Karen talked with Tom Linfield of MCF about the issue with the money being reserved for new gardens. Woulf stated that there was clarification that the fund can be used for improvements, not just new gardens. There is still agreement that no funds will be distributed in 2015, but we do have access to the money if we want it. Woulf stated that the role of the committee going forward will be to share the new garden fund process and advise on how we would like to see the fund proceed. von Huene raised the question of how we get money into the fund. There has been a small group of gardens donating money, and we need to figure out how to structure things so we have money for gardens. Nekola gets reports from MCF for new contributions and she will have them sent to von Huene.

[39436](#)

Status of Community Gardens Program August 2015

Attachments: [Gardens Network Overview June 2015.pdf](#)
[Gardens Network Advisory Team Application.pdf](#)

Woulf reported that the admin team for the Gardens Network met this morning and talked mostly about funding. It was a positive meeting that included Wade Thompson, the City of Fitchburg Planner, who discussed their involvement with community gardens in Fitchburg. It will be interesting to see how the Gardens Network can help support municipalities outside the City of Madison in their community garden efforts. The Gardens Network staff will be working to recruit additional applicants to fill the openings on the advisory team. The advisory team will meet on a quarterly basis. The application deadline is September 7, and they hope to have a meeting in the 3rd week of September.

The committee discussed the Gardens Coalition of garden leaders role in the governance model for the Gardens Network, namely the advisory team. Schneider handed out the application for the advisory team at the last Gardens Coalition meeting and sent the application to the list of people who have shown interest in attending a Gardens Coalition meeting. Coalition members should encourage garden leaders to apply. The application deadline is somewhat flexible because the Gardens Network wants to give enough time for people who are interested to apply and would like as many applications as possible.

39429 Sheboygan Gardens Update August 2015

The Governor vetoed the provision in the budget that would've exempted DOT from City Zoning requirements. We are back to where we were but now the State needs to work with the City.

REGULAR BUSINESS REPORTS**39437** Food Policy Council Update August 2015

Woulf reported that the Healthy Retail Access Program is now online. We will be accepting applications. Staff created the Food Access Improvement Map. It gives you areas across the City to focus attention: low-income, low-access, low-vehicle usage areas to focus retail.

Schneider reported that the Food Policy Council heard updates from its work groups and regular contributors. The Madison Metropolitan School District has begun summer food service at 47 sites around the community. The MadMarket Double Dollars program is expanding to include the Northside Market and Monona. At its meeting on August 5th the Council will review the business plan for the Public Market and receive an update on efforts to establish a grocery store in the Allied Drive area.

39438 Parks Update August 2015

Leopold reported that there was an issue at Brittingham Park needing to move the playground away from the garden.

Leopold also shared her experience with the public's request for an off leash dog park through her membership with the Long Range Planning Committee. They create a map of areas that are well served by dog parks. There should perhaps be a map of areas that are under-served for gardens. Olsen stated that it would be helpful to have a map to fill criteria for gardens because there are many factors that need to be accessed, including access to a water source and tree coverage. Leopold suggested that starting to set standards gets Parks to be proactive and says "let's put a dog park here" rather than responding to a request.

39439 CDBG Update August 2015

No Report

39440 Planning Update August 2015

No Report

39441 New Garden Fund August 2015

Covered under #39428

[39442](#)

Garden Report August 2015

Schneider reported that the Gardens Coalition is in the process of going to each other's gardens for their monthly meetings followed by a tour of the hosting garden. They went to Atwood and Quann already. On the 25th they're going to Reindahl. With the help of Devon Hamilton (intern at UWEX), they came up with a community gardens workshop series that was advertised to the garden leaders and general community gardens Google Groups. The first one is Thursday, August 6th on pest and diseases and volunteer management. Lezberg stated that the Watering Conservation workshop is scheduled for August 13th at Brittingham. The workshops will pick up in September at Troy.

Schneider stated that the Gardens Coalition is asking garden leaders to send ideas to combat vandalism and theft at community gardens. The goal is to create a document based on these ideas that will serve as "best practices" and be listed on the Garden Leaders Resources page of the www.danecountycommunitygardens.org website. The Gardens Coalition will also be sending out an online survey to garden leaders to gather information about the types of assets each garden owns and which gardens are willing to share assets or lend assets.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Miller reported that there is a showing of the Food Patriots Film on August 22nd at Meadowridge Library at 2 pm through the Libraries Humanitarian Grant. Robert Pierce will be there for questions and answers. Miller will send the flyer to Schneider electronically.

Schneider reported that the Goodman Youth Farm Tour is this Saturday from 3 pm – 6 pm.

The UW West Agricultural Research Station Trial Gardens Open House is on August 15th from 10 am to 2 pm. It is on Mineral Point Road.

Rosenberg will be absent for the next meeting on September 29th.

ADJOURNMENT

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