

Manhattan Community Gardens Board Meeting

June 4, 2008 5:45 PM

Those present: Patty Zehl, Chuck Marr, Bruce McCallum, Susan Peterson, Brad Debey, Stoner Smith, Pamela Been-Redeker, Linda Teener and Jenny Guilford

1. Treasurer's Report:

Linda reported that we currently have \$4800.00, and the water lines have been paid for. All finances are in line for this time of the year.

2. Correspondence and Announcements:

Greg Eyestone has invited UFM gardeners to a meeting on Monday June 16th at Pottroff Hall to discuss this year's Garden Show and suggest changes for next year.

UFM is sponsoring Arts in the Park featuring Robin and Linda Williams on Saturday, June 14th at 8:00 PM.

3. Committee Reports:

A. Equipment Maintenance:

Stoner Smith reported that, as of today, both tillers work, and the wheels have been replaced on the one that needed new wheels.

B. Tilling:

Bruce reported that there are currently two plots that have had tilling requested. They are new gardeners, and he will wait for the soil to dry out before he tills them.

C. Flower Bed Maintenance:

Pamela reported that the North Bed is looking fairly good weed-wise, and that most of the committee members are doing their weeding. However, there is still a big problem with trash drifting over from Howie's dumpsters. Susan suggested that David Echols from the Breadbasket may be able to organize a crew of Community Service Workers to do a regular cleanup.

D. Rules and Safety:

Brad has sent out 5 letters to gardeners who don't appear to have done anything with their plots yet. He has heard back from a few of them. Exdell has done his weeding and will plant this week. Kirshner (East Garden) will be getting to his plot soon. Garrett (N43) will weed her plot immediately. Lobianco (North Garden) is getting assistance from Susan to help her get started in her plot. Adongo also received his first letter. After the third letter, gardeners can be evicted if they fail to maintain their plots.

E. Compost and Mulch:

Jenny called Fred, who is going to replace the contaminated straw with Gamma Grass bales free of charge. He guarantees that there will be no spray on the bales. Jenny is calling around to find wood chips.

F. Newsletter:

Chuck reported that 71 gardeners are currently signed up to receive the email tips on Fridays. The electronic newsletter was particularly timely and effective in getting out

the word on the contaminated straw. Chuck will put in information about new straw bales this week, and provide follow-up information regarding the contamination as it comes in. We agreed to do soil tests in plots that had significant damage to get a baseline idea of the level of chemical remaining in the soil and its half life.

G. Records:

Susan reported that she now has files for everybody, and there are still two people remaining on the waiting list for plots. The only plot we have available is the one where we removed the sidewalk, and it needs about 10-15 wheelbarrow loads of dirt to fill the area displaced by the concrete. Stoner suggested that we have Howie's guys do it with their Skid Steer; he will ask them.

H. Garden Socials:

The next social event will be the BBQ on Wednesday, June 18th at 7:30 PM.

4. Old Business:

A. Rental of empty plots:

As long as we're limiting the total number of plots to four per gardener, preference for new plots should be given to existing "gardeners in good standing" as long as they go through the sign up process.

5. New Business:

A. Contaminated straw mulch:

We decided to conduct a soil test on an effected plot to determine the level of 24-D remaining in the soil.

B. Garden Social:

We decided to ask people to arrive a little early (6:30 PM) to the June Garden BBQ so that we could get a little work done. John Lambert reported that the spot excavated for the new water line next to his plot has sunken and the path is dangerously uneven. It needs dirt and mulch.

C. Policies or rules to review regarding plot rental:

a. June 1st deadline for planting: CHANGE the word "PLANTED" in the first paragraph to "maintained," and keep everything else the same.

b. Increase of deposit for rules violations? NO

D. Student Farm: Jenny reported that some of the gardeners have expressed interest in touring the KSU Student Farm. She will try to schedule a tour on a Saturday or a weekday evening.

6. Next Meeting- July 2nd 2008 at 5:45 PM.