

Manhattan Community Gardens Board

Minutes for Wednesday, August 4, 2010 Meeting

Members Present: Chuck Marr, Dick Green, Kellan Kerschner, Susan Oviatt and Dale Stearns.

Chuck called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. at the Community Garden Equipment Shed Porch.

The minutes of the July 7th meeting were reviewed. Dick moved and Kellan seconded to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

There was no Treasurer's report as Linda was on vacation.

Chuck made two announcements. First, the portable restroom was recently trashed and was cleaned up by a gardener. Chuck will follow-up with the portable restroom service for additional cleaning. Second, the homeless gentleman who sleeps on a picnic table near the equipment shed has returned. He is considered to be trespassing and is not authorized to stay at the gardens. Gardeners are encouraged to call the police if he is present at the gardens.

Committee Reports:

Dick gave an Equipment Committee Report indicating \$20 in expenditures for replacement hoses and his anticipation of spending an additional \$20 on hose clamps. He reported that the red, rear-tine tiller is out of use with a broken choke lever. He has ordered the replacement part.

Chuck gave a Flower Bed Maintenance Committee Report stating that two daylilies were stolen from the daylily flower bed. A police report was filed. He requested that the upcoming Saturday workday crew include flower bed weeding among their tasks. Chuck described the use of POAST and other similar herbicides that can be applied to kill grass without damaging flowers and garden vegetables. He will provide POAST for use at the workday to spray the raised beds that have a crabgrass infestation.

Kellan gave a Rules Committee Report explaining that he has completed a tour of the gardens and has some violation letters to send out to gardeners as weeds are taking over a few of the garden plots.

The Board as a whole discussed mulch and compost needs for the late summer and fall. Chuck will ask Don to arrange for one more bale of hay to be placed near the organic garden plots for fall garden mulching and for the compost piles to be refreshed for fall plot fertilizing.

Susan gave a Records Committee Report indicating that she needs the assistance of workday and garden social coordinators to help her record the participation of volunteers for those events. The August, September, October and November workdays are still available for gardeners to fulfill their volunteer requirement.

Chuck reported that a mid-August printed newsletter is planned. It may experience some delay depending on Jeanne's availability to prepare it. There was no report for the Tilling Committee.

Old Business:

Dale reported that the August Garden Social is planned for Saturday, August 7th as a Breakfast with the theme "Beat the Heat." Lynda Bachelor is assisting Dale with the preparations. Dale is also coordinating the workday on Saturday beginning at 8:30 a.m. The work projects include flower bed weeding around the equipment shed and at the south end parking lot, spraying POAST on crabgrass in the raised beds and pathways as needed, removing the overgrown grass on the pathway along plots 70-72 and hauling in new chips to re-establish the pathway. Dale has contacted the seven volunteers for the workday and expects additional gardeners to attend to make-up a workday that they previously missed.

Chuck reported that he is working on obtaining the No Trespassing signs and has been delayed in processing the order.

New Business:

The Board discussed plans to reassign plots that gardeners are not returning to next year to other gardeners desiring to obtain an additional plot at the November workday. Gardeners not planning to return to their plots are asked to report that to Susan so that she can record the available plots. Returning gardeners seeking an additional plot for next year can make that request at the November workday which will include registration for returning gardeners. The maximum number of plots for a gardener is four. Susan indicated that she has been getting plot requests and requests for plot reassignments now. Kellan stated that our policy for plot requests and assignments needs to be updated. He moved that the Board not make any plot reassignments or fulfill any requests for additional plots until the Board updates the policy. Dick seconded and the motion carried. The plan is to update the policy in advance of the November workday.

Statements pertaining to plot assignments/reassignments draft policy were shared by the Board as follows:

- "A new gardener is limited to one plot."
- "A gardener is allowed a maximum of four plots total."
- "A gardener receiving a letter of non-compliance in the current year is not eligible for an additional plot for the following year."

- “A gardener not fulfilling the volunteer commitments of either mowing, workdays and/or garden socials is not eligible for an additional plot.”
- “Gardeners must have residency in the city of Manhattan.”

These policy ideas will be discussed further at the September Board meeting.

Chuck indicated that there will be four Board openings for next year. Nominees are sought and he asked each Board member to seek out prospective nominees.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m. The next Board meeting is Wednesday, September 1st at 5:45 p.m. at the Community Gardens Equipment Shed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dale Stearns

Recording Secretary