

**Manhattan Community Gardens Board  
Minutes for Wednesday, March 3, 2010 Meeting**

Members Present: Don Benninga, Dick Green, Kellan Kershner, Chuck Marr, Jeanne Squires-Lake, Dale Stearns, and Linda Teener.

Chuck called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. at UFM. There were no additional items added for the agenda.

Dale provided the Secretary's Report. Dick moved and Don seconded to accept the February minutes. Motion carried. Linda provided the Treasurer's Report with an update that there is an additional \$200 in the budget for plot rentals. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.

Chuck made the following announcements:

- There will be a makeup 'Equipment Orientation' on Saturday, March 20, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. Three orientations have been completed with 67% of the gardeners participating. There may be another makeup orientation to coincide with the March 27<sup>th</sup> workday.
- The Spring Work Day is planned for March 27<sup>th</sup> 9-11 a.m. Board members are encouraged to be there to oversee projects. Chuck asked the Board members to think of needed tasks and let him know prior to the workday.
- Plot tilling has started. Pat Butler is heading up the tilling work.
- The Garden Show was a success. The Community Garden table was fully staffed for both days of the show.
- The Community Garden at Fort Riley is progressing. 60 garden plots in the Camp Forsythe area are being prepared. 40 of the plots have been rented to date. April 1<sup>st</sup> is the target date to have the plots available for gardeners to begin. Chuck will meet with the leadership group for this project next week. A dedication ceremony will be held this spring with a date and speaker to be determined.
- The burning permit will need to be renewed if burning of debris at the gardens is to be permitted. If the permit is issued it will require a Board member to be present at the Community Gardens at the time of a burning and to stay until the fire is completely out. If the burning permit is issued a permit number will be posted in the shed and should be known by the Board members. A Board member overseeing a burn should contact the Manhattan Fire and Police prior to the burn.

Committee Reports:

Dick gave an Equipment Committee report indicating that \$52 in repairs have been made to a string trimmer and the rear tine tiller. One string trimmer is in strong condition. The second string trimmer can be used until it fails. Dick does not recommend further repairs to the second string trimmer. A craftsman lawn mower was purchased in response to a sale at Sears and Board action via email to approve the purchase. \$30 has been expended for fuel and all equipment has been fueled and started.

There was no report for Ground Maintenance and Tilling other than that tilling is underway. There were no reports for the Flower Bed Maintenance and Rules and Safety Committees.

Don gave a Compost and Mulch Committee report that two loads of compost have been delivered to the community garden.

Jean and Chuck gave an Education and Newsletter Committee report. Jean is preparing for a paper newsletter to be mailed in mid-April. Chuck has started enews last Friday and will continue weekly on Fridays.

Susan provided plot maps for distribution to the Board members as the Records Committee report. All plots are rented with the exception of north 50, which has come available due to cancellation. Linda has a waiting list of gardeners to use for the re-assignment. Plot splits were briefly discussed as a way to add more gardeners. However, past problems with plot splits were noted.

Old Business:

Plans for the Garden mentoring program are underway. Erika Huber is preparing a questionnaire. The draft questionnaire will be forwarded to Board members for comments prior to its use.

More potential gardeners were added to the waiting list at the Garden Show.

The leaking water hydrants at the Manhattan Community Gardens will be repaired soon. Chuck has been in contact with the City regarding the water use.

New Business:

A new lawnmower was purchased for \$215.09 from Sears. It was a quick decision in response to a good value. The Board approved the purchase via an email vote.

Work Day Leader assignments were made:

March 27 Kellan with all Board members on hand and a dumpster to be arranged for 9<sup>th</sup> St.,

May 1 Don,

June 5 Chuck,

July 10 to be determined,

Aug 7 Dale coordinated with a Social breakfast,

Sept 11 to be determined, Oct 2 to be determined,

and Nov 13 with all Board members for the annual meeting.

The next Board meeting is Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 p.m. at UFM. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Stearns, Recording Secretary