

**Annual Meeting for the Manhattan Community Garden  
November 13, 2010**

Gardeners gathered at the Equipment shed for the annual meeting following the last Garden Workday for 2010. Chuck Marr called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. Chuck introduced each of the 2010 Board members, gave a brief summary of the work completed by each and thanked them for their service. Chuck noted that his term and the terms of Don Benniga and Pamela Renninger expire at the end of this year and that Kellan Kerscher is unable to fulfill his entire term with the completion of his PhD and move to Indiana. There are four Board vacancies for 2011. Chuck gave a special thanks to the donation of siding by C&R Construction and the work of Board members Pat Butler and Dick Green to re-side the tool shed.

Chuck shared comments on the past year for the Community Garden. Chuck reviewed the difficulties of very wet spring followed by a hot, dry summer for all gardeners. In addition to the weather challenges, there were issues with sexual harassment, vagrancy and vandalism that had to be dealt with by the Board. Chuck encouraged all gardeners to help monitor activities at the Community Garden and to report any strange or inappropriate behaviors to the police. The key to stopping potential criminal activities at the gardens is to report them to the police when they occur. Call 911 and/or take a picture with your cell phone of the event to help police respond. Chuck reminded gardeners that the gardens are not public property and that individuals in the gardens with no relation to the gardens are trespassing.

Chuck explained to gardeners our connection with the CROP organization and the money received from CROP to subsidize plot costs for low income gardeners. He encouraged gardeners to donate \$5 to CROP with their plot registration. Chuck identified Dale Stearns as the Board member who is a liaison with the local CROP Walk organizers. Chuck shared concerns regarding the plot abandonment issue. Violation letters from the Rules Committee are used as the first step to address gardens getting out of control with weeds. However, if gardeners leave with no notice it becomes a burden for the Board to reclaim and clear the plot. The current \$10 is probably not adequate to deter plot abandonment. Chuck made gardeners aware that the deposit may need to be increased by action of the Board.

Chuck described the activities of the Compost committee in having compost brought from off-site for gardeners' use and then having temporary dumpsters provided to the garden for the fall clean-up of garden plots. He thanked Howie's Trash Service for their assistance with the dumpsters. Chuck also explained the mandatory equipment orientation program instituted this year. Dick added that the program has been a success with the result being fewer equipment repairs due to incorrect preparation and operation of equipment. Chuck encouraged gardeners with fences around their plots to be diligent removing tree seedlings from the fence row. The seedlings should be dug out before the next growing season. Chuck alerted gardeners that the water will be turned off to the hydrants beginning December 1<sup>st</sup> to reduce breakdowns with the hydrants and to eliminate vandalism from hydrants being left on for long periods of time. The water will be turned back on in February just prior to the new growing season.

Another issue that Chuck addressed to the gardeners was the willing of plots to other gardeners. The Board has developed a plot reassignment process to fairly allocate plots to returning and new gardeners. Linda Teener noted that last year we had 25 potential new gardeners on a waiting list for plots who didn't receive one. Linda encouraged returning gardeners to fully utilize the plots they have and avoid leasing additional plots so that more plots can be available to new gardeners.

Chuck praised the work of Susan Oviatt in record keeping and reviewed the Board's more stringent implementation of gardener volunteer commitments. The Board tried hard to make sure that all gardeners fulfilled the volunteer commitment of either one month of mowing or two times providing assistance with Socials or Garden Workdays. Chuck encouraged everyone signing up today for a plot in 2011 to make a note of their volunteer commitments and to follow through when it occurs next year.

Chuck opened the meeting up for questions and comments from the gardeners. There was a brief discussion about the vagrant who was sleeping on the picnic table at the equipment shed this past summer. Chuck indicated that the individual was intoxicated one morning, a report was made to the police and that the vagrant did not return to the garden after that. Several gardeners praised Chuck for the communication and information that he provided each week in the email news. Chuck indicated that he would be willing to do the email news next year as his volunteer commitment. It was also noted that next year's Socials will coincide with Garden Workdays to maximize the participation of gardeners at the events.

Chuck introduced the slate of nominees for the 2011 Board vacancies. The nominees are Chris Feit, Cybil Perkins, Ron Downey and to fill Kellan's incomplete term, Erika Huber. There were no further nominations made from the gardeners. Nominations were closed and the nominees were approved by unanimous consent of the gardeners.

Chuck invited all the gardeners to stay and enjoy the garden soup lunch and potluck prepared by Susan Oviatt and Jeanne Squires. Chuck announced that the plot registration for returning gardeners will begin after the lunch.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectively submitted,

Dale Stearns  
Secretary