

## Manhattan Community Gardens

### Minutes for Wednesday, September 1, 2010 Meeting

(Minutes by D. Green in Secretary D. Stearns absence)

**Members Present:** Chuck Marr, Dick Green, Pat Butler, Kellan Kershner, Jeanne Squires/Lake, Susan Oviatt and Treasurer Linda Teener

A quorum was present and Chuck Marr called the meeting to order promptly at 5:45 p.m. The meeting was held at the Community Gardens Equipment Building.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes of the August 4, 2010 were presented for approval and there were no objections or revisions. K. Kershner moved for approval and the motion was seconded by P. Butler. The motion to accept the Minutes as read were approved 6-0.

**Treasurer's Report:** Linda Teener presented the Treasure's Report. Financial condition continues to remain in good standing. A brief discussion on CROP Walk funding was followed by acceptance of the Treasure's report as submitted.

#### Announcements:

- 1) C. Marr informed the group that the source of the gas fired BBQ grill in the shed was a donation by Bruce McCallum. D. Green advised that he would test the grill and if the grill was found in working order to "tag" it available for use. The grill did not come with a propane bottle and a fuel container would need to be obtained by MCG for use at future socials (if grill is operable). D. Green asked and received approval to dispose of the older grill if the new grill is serviceable. Approval to dispose of the older grill was approved.
- 2) Status on homeless man who loiters around the equipment shed from time to time was updated by C. Marr. On Monday of this week the individual in question was found in an inebriated state. Local authorities were contacted and this individual left and/or was removed from the premises. To date this individual has not returned to the MCG properties.

#### Committee Reports:

**Equipment Report:** Dick Green reported that just over \$25.00 was expended for the previous period. The major expense items were a new combination lock for the Tool Shed and keys for the padlock at the string trimmers. Dick requested that the old 'Red' mower be 'junked' at the end of the season due to the overall condition of the mower and continuing high cost of maintenance. D. Green suggested that store sales in late September through early November be monitored for 'bargains on end of season mowers' for a replacement mower. The group agreed to monitor for a possible mower replacement. D. Green also requested and received approval to service all equipment at the end of the season. D. Green estimated these maintenance costs to be in the \$200+ range. D. Green advised the group that he would be out of town from September 4<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> and that B. McCallum and other board members would monitor the equipment for repairs.

**Ground Maintenance & Tilling Report:** P. Butler reported no activity for the previous period.

**Flower Bed Maintenance Report:** Position is vacant and there was no report at this meeting.

**Rules & Safety Report:** K. Kershner advised the group that this was his last official meeting. K. Kershner had previously inspected the gardens and twenty-three (23) violation notices would be issued later this week. S. Oviatt requested that Kellan provide copies of his previous correspondence and all violation notices so that continuity could be maintained with Kellan no longer able to serve on the Rules Committee. Kellan agreed to share what records he had with Susan and L. Teener.

**Compost and Mulch Report:** D. Benninga reported that two (2) loads of compost and one (1) bale of straw mulch were delivered and stored on the south side of 8<sup>th</sup> street. One (1) additional load of compost was ordered and expected to be delivered later on the week for the south side of 9<sup>th</sup> Street. No additional deliveries of straw mulch were expected this season. Dale also suggested that thank you notes be sent to K-State and the City of Manhattan for furnishing and delivering the compost.

**Education and Newsletter Report:** C. Marr indicated that the weekly e-mail newsletter would go out this Friday. J. Squires/Lake advised that the August 'mailed' newsletter was in the final stages and would be ready for mailing later this week.

**Records Report:** S. Oviatt initiated a discussion regarding sign-up procedures for returning gardeners at the Annual Meeting. The general consensus was to develop a PDF format for the sign-up form and to provide this PDF format via the weekly e-mail newsletter for the returning gardeners to complete and bring to the November sign-up. S. Oviatt agreed to meet with L. Teener to formalize the PDF format and to furnish that format to C. Marr for inclusion in the next e-mail newsletter.

**Garden Social & CROP Walk Report:** D. Stearns furnished a written report regarding the current status for the CROP Walk. That report was included with the August Minutes and is incorporated into the September Meeting minutes by reference.

**Old Business:** The next work day is September 11, 2010 supervised by J. Squires/Lake. Jeanne asked for suggestions and recommendations for work activities. D. Green advised that he would be out of town on September 11<sup>th</sup> and would not be able to set out the tools and equipment in advance. C. Marr advised that he would assist in providing work lists for the workday. Initial suggestions were flower bed maintenance, mowing of the railroad ROW and trimming the ROW along the railroad at the East Gardens as well as clearing the northeast garden area of the East Gardens.

**New Business:**

- 1) Whitmer situation; Consensus was to declare both plots abandoned and for the MCG leadership to arrange for the clearing and cleaning of the two (2) plots at the end of the season. C. Marr estimated that one (1) man would spend three (3) days to clear and clean one (1) plot.
- 2) Homeless man at gardens; See Note #2 at Announcements.
- 3) New gardener sign-up rules; See Commentary at the end of these minutes.
- 4) Mulch compost situation; See Committee Report above.
- 5) Rules & Safety responsibilities for remainder of year; See Committee report above. K. Kershner was not expected to be able to attend this meeting and with his attendance the majority of the open issues for the remainder of the year will be satisfied by the twenty-three (23) Violation Notices that Kellan will send out before leaving for his new assignment in Indiana.
- 6) Plot assignments current; See Note #3 above at New Business.
- 7) CROP Walk; See comments at Committee report and Report compiled by D. Stearns and attached to August Meeting Minutes.

**Item 3 & 6, Plot Assignments Discussion:**

C. Marr initiated an extensive discussion regarding the need to develop a set of policies and guidelines for assignment of plots in the garden. Discussion topics included the 'willing of plots' and the number of plots per gardener, violation notices and plot assignments. Consensus was reached for:

- 1) one (1) plot maximum for new gardeners, no more than four (4) plots for a returning gardener in good standing
- 2) no 'willing' of plots or the passing of plots from an existing gardener to a new or existing gardener.
- 3) requests to acquire a plot coming available should be submitted to the MCG President in writing no later than November 1<sup>st</sup> of a given year

4) board will develop criteria for restricting/rejecting gardeners who wish to acquire additional plots or keep what they have, based on their lack of participation in required volunteer activities or their history of Violation Notices.

5) creation of a "Plot Assignment Committee," which will evaluate Good Standing of gardeners, using criteria to be established.

K. Kershner moved that MCG accept written requests be presented to the MCG President no later than November 1<sup>st</sup> of a given year requesting additional plots. The written request would be forwarded to the new Plot Assignment Committee for final determination on all plot assignments. Motion was seconded by D. Green and approved 6-0.

C. Marr closed out the meeting with an update on board vacancies and prospective candidates. Three member's terms conclude in 2012 and those members are D. Green P. Butler, and Dale Sterns. Three member's terms expire in 2011 and those members are S. Oviatt, J. Squires/Lake, and K. Kerschner. Kellan Kerschner has completed his doctoral program and will be returning to Indiana and the September meeting will be the final meeting for Mr. Kerschner. Three board member's term that expire in 2010 are C. Marr, P. Been/Redecker, and D. Benninga. Ms. Been/Redecker had resigned early this year and that position was left vacant. Mr. Benninga was serving out the remaining board term of another member. There will be four board vacancies to be filled. C. Marr advised that E. Huber had agreed to complete M. Kerschner's term. Other prospective candidates are R. Downey, S. Perkins, and M. Winter.

**Additional Items & Comments at the End of the Meeting:**

- 1) P. Butler agreed to follow-up on D. Cox lack of mowing and advise Cox on volunteer requirements.
- 2) P. Butler inquired on the status of replacing the exterior siding on the Tool Shed. P. Butler agreed to follow-up with B. McCallum to confirm if donated materials would be available. D. Green recommended replacing entrance door if replacement siding is installed.
- 3) D. Green advised group that he may have a Master Gardener Training program conflict with his October Workday assignment.

**Meeting concluded at 7:30 p.m.**