

**Manhattan Community Garden
Minutes of July 6, 2011 Board meeting**

Present: Dick Green, Ron Downey, Pat Butler, Linda Teener, Erika Huber, Chuck Marr, and Dale Stearns.

Dick called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. The minutes of the June 1st meeting were reviewed. Ron moved, Pat seconded and the motion to approve the minutes carried. Linda presented the Treasurer's report. Pat moved, Ron seconded and the motion to accept the Treasurer's report carried.

Committee Reports:

Dick gave the Equipment Committee report stating that he had \$9 in expenses. The equipment as a whole is holding up well. David Hicks is monitoring equipment in June and Bruce McCallum in July.

Pat reported for the Grounds Maintenance and Tilling Committee that the volunteers are completing the mowing. 60 tomato cages have been made and sold to gardeners.

Ron reported for Safety and Rules that the rules amendment process remains on hold pending more information about next year's garden arrangements. Ron identified plots being surrendered by gardeners. These plots will be cleared at the July 9th workday. Ron is also communicating with gardeners having difficulty keeping up with weeding.

Dick and Dale reported regarding the July 9th workday. Cybil has emailed reminders to the volunteers. Dick has prepared a list of workday chores including spraying Poast on the grassy paths, clearing surrendered plots and weeding in the Big Lakes raised bed garden.

Erika is finalizing the summer newsletter for the gardeners. It will be printed and mailed next week.

Old Business:

The County has explained the steps for UFM and the Manhattan Community Gardens to formally request land on Collins Lane. An application process has been detailed to Linda. Linda also stated that an Archery Club might request land at the Collins Lane location. Both the Manhattan Community Gardens and the Archery Club should be able to be accommodated. The Board needs to prepare a basic plan for the gardens request including acres requested, layout for the site, parking needs, water needs, picnic areas, shed locations, etc. Chuck volunteered to do a design in MS Publisher but will need the input of the Board. The application process with the County may also involve a presentation to the township.

Ron moved and Pat seconded a motion to authorize UFM to initiate the application process to request 5-6 acres of land on Collins Lane from the County. The motion carried 4-1.

Linda shared a letter from Howie's Trash Service indicating that they are willing to provide up to 2 days of heavy equipment operation for a new garden site preparation, well digging services, the well pump and well housing as a compensation to the Manhattan Community Gardens for the sale of the north gardens area by the City. The Board is inclined to accept this offer but it is all pending the acquisition of a new site. Linda will communicate back to Howie's that the offer is of interest to the Board but that it is pending action with the County.

New Business:

The Board reviewed a written complaint submitted by Jenny Chang. Upon review the Board determined that the complaint items from five years ago had been dealt with at that time. The current issue regarding whether she adequately fulfilled her volunteer responsibility for mowing was considered. The Board determined that she has fulfilled her mowing responsibility. Linda will write a follow-up letter to Jenny.

The Board has an opening with the resignation of Susan Oviatt, who is spending her growing seasons in New Mexico. Possible nominees for the open position were discussed. Erika will approach a nominee that she recommends. Other nominees are welcome.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, August 3rd at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dale Stearns