

**Manhattan Community Garden
Minutes of the March 2, 2011 Board meeting**

Present: Dick Green, Ron Downey, Linda Teener, Pat Butler, Dale Stearns, Susan Oviatt, Chris Feit, and Cybil Perkins.

Dick called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. at UFM. Dick asked if there were any additional agenda items. The problems with trash being blown into the gardens were added to new business. Minutes of the February Board meeting were reviewed. One correction was noted that the Tiller Clinics are recommended but not required. Ron moved and Pat seconded to accept the minutes with this correction. Motion carried. Linda presented the Treasurer's report. She noted an increase in revenue from plot rentals as compared to last year. Pat moved and Cybil seconded to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Dick gave the Equipment Committee report stating that \$40 was expended for stickers and a garden sign, \$75 for a new trash receptacle, and \$80 for spare parts and fuel. Dick recommended that the air pressure for the tiller tires be kept 5 lbs. higher than suggested by the manufacturer to prevent dirt from breaking the seal at the rim.

Pat reported for the Grounds Maintenance and Tilling Committee that when weather and soil conditions permit, plot tilling will begin. Susan gave Pat the list of gardeners requesting to have their plots tilled.

Ron reported for the Rules and Safety Committee that gardeners to assist with monitoring of weed maintenance in plots have been recruited.

Cybil reported for the Workdays and Socials Committee indicating that she emailed reminders to volunteers for the Garden Show and that there was a good response by volunteers. She has emailed reminders to the March 5th workday volunteers. There was a brief discussion about the record keeping for volunteers who meet their commitment and those who don't and will need to reschedule a volunteer activity.

Chris gave the Compost and Mulch Committee report stating that 4 loads of wood chips have been delivered to the Community Garden for the March 5th workday. Composted manure can now be obtained from the KSU cattle barns however the city won't be able to haul it with a dump truck until the snow plows are removed in the next 2 weeks. It was suggested that the hauler for the wood chips might be able to haul composted manure. Chris will follow-up. Sources of hay for mulch were also further discussed and Chris was given an additional lead.

Susan distributed a garden plot map for 2011 and a printed spreadsheet with gardener information including plot location for the Records Committee. She suggested that Board members have these with them when at the gardens to better respond to any questions that may come up about plots and gardeners.

Dale gave a CROP report indicating that 65 of the registered gardeners pledged a donation to the 2011 CROP Walk. This is a significant increase over 2010.

Old Business:

Erika did an excellent job on the February Newsletter Committee. She will be asked to document the newsletter production process for the Board's records.

Dick reported that 61 out of the 110 gardeners have attended the Equipment Orientation sessions to date. The weather has presented some challenges. The next Orientation session is this Saturday, March 5th before the workday. The Tiller Clinic will follow the workday.

Several Board members reported that the Garden Show was a success. There were questions from out-of-town gardeners about how the Community Gardens are administered.

Dick reported that water would be back on at the gardens by March 5th. He encouraged Board members at the gardens to check that hydrants are in the off position when not in use.

Susan indicated that there are only 1 ½ plots not leased for 2011. The one full plot is reserved and will soon be leased.

Dale volunteered to prepare a year-end report after the November annual meeting for submission to the Manhattan Mercury to further promote the activities and contributions of the Community Garden to Manhattan.

New Business:

Dale moved and Chris seconded to authorize an expenditure for a new push lawn mower to be purchased to replace the oldest mower in the fleet. Dick will watch for a sale and anticipates the expenditure to be less than \$300. Motion carried.

Snow removal has become an issue for the Community Gardens as there is sidewalk along the gardens that are used by pedestrians. Dick and Pat removed snow from last week's storm using their own equipment. The Board discussed the possibility of either purchasing a snow blower for use next winter or contracting for snow removal. No action was taken.

Dick shared a sample sign that he had prepared to better emphasize that the gardens are private property and that only gardeners are permitted. The language on the sign was reviewed by the Manhattan city attorney and approved. Dale moved and Ron seconded to authorize the expenditure of funds to have these signs produced and to purchase sign posts as needed. Dick reported that the first sign cost \$25 and that additional signs will be \$15 a piece. Motion carried.

Dick contacted a sign maker to replace the Community Gardens identification sign in the south end parking lot. The current sign is badly weathered. The replacement cost is estimated at \$100. Cybil moved and Linda seconded to authorize the expenditure of funds to replace the south end sign.

The problems with neighborhood trash were discussed. There are no simple resolutions to the problem. Clean up of the current trash in the gardens will be done at the March 5th workday. The Board will see if blown-in trash continues to be a problem or if it was a symptom from this winter's storms and subsequent trash removal delays.

Board members who had reviewed the updates to the Gardener Rules presented by Ron in the February meeting gave their written notes to Ron so that he can incorporate the edits.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Stearns