

Manhattan Community Gardens

Minutes of February 1, 2012 Board Meeting

Present: Dick Green, Pat Butler, Leila Maurmann, Ron Downey, Linda Teener, Dale Stearns, John Rodgers, Max Urick, Cybil Perkins and Kruger Bryant.

Pat called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. Minutes for the January Board meeting were distributed to the Board via email one week ago. There were no additions or corrections identified. Max moved, Dick seconded and the motion carried to approve the minutes. Linda gave the Treasurer's Report. She broke out the Collins Lane expenses for 2011 and 2012 to date. Linda also adjusted the 2012 budget, increasing expenses for Collins Lane maintenance. Dick moved, John seconded and the motion to accept the Treasurer's report carried.

Committee Reports

Dick gave the Equipment Committee report. With the mild weather gardeners have been using the tillers at Riley Lane to prepare plots for spring. Plans are underway to split the current equipment between Riley Lane and Collins Lane. Dick asked the Board if the March 1st date to turn on water at Riley Lane was acceptable. The Board agreed with the March 1st date. Dick will have Chuck put a note in the email newsletter to let Riley Lane gardeners know that the water will be turned on. Pat had no report for the Grounds & Maintenance Committee.

Cybil asked that the Workdays & Socials Committee be renamed Correspondence since most of her work is corresponding to volunteers. The Board agreed with her suggestion. Dale had no report for CROP. Leila had no report for the Newsletter; however the Board suggested items for the first edition to be prepared later this month.

Ron had no report for the Rules & Safety Committee but will have a handout later in the meeting regarding requests for donations.

Kruger had no report for the Records Committee but did report on a publicity opportunity. On Tuesday, April 10th Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack or a representative of his office will be visiting Manhattan and the University. We could try to arrange a dedication for the Collins Lane gardens on that day. He will pursue this idea further.

John gave a report on Collins Lane, specifically his efforts in making contacts for donations of equipment. He made personal contacts with Parker Hannifin about hoses. They may be able to donate hoses from end rolls. Waters Ace Hardware donated a shovel and plans to donate other tools. John spoke with managers at Wal-Mart, Orschelins, Menards, West Side Market and Home Depot and received positive responses. John also reported that the January 17th presentation to the Kiwanis went well. Ron distributed a list of additional businesses to be contacted for possible donations.

Old Business

Dick reported on Collins Lane progress. The continued mild weather has been an asset to project completion. Dick and the other volunteers are close to having the garden ready for staking plots.

One to two days of harrowing and tilling will be needed. Max moved, Ron seconded and the motion to authorize up to \$700 for equipment rental for a tractor, harrow and tiller attachment carried. If the work only takes one day the rental cost will be \$350. Dick also reported that 80% of the T stakes in the north garden to be vacated are useable for Collins Lane. He plans to harvest the T stakes, clean the T stakes and paint the T stakes green. After a brief discussion, the Board decided to notify last year's north gardeners via the email that they can remove their own stakes and fence prior to Thursday, February 10th. On or after February 10th the stakes will be harvested. Dick recommended that the Board consider authorizing \$725 for shed lighting. The Board did not take action on the recommendation due to overall cost concerns.

Pat asked for a report on returning gardener sign-up. Cybil has been in contact with the few possible returning gardeners who have not signed up. There are a few plots still open at Riley Lane. The Collins Lane sign-up begins tonight. Linda reported that the gardener database is up to date with registrants. The Board had a brief discussion on the Collins Lane plot map.

New Business

Ron volunteered to lead the grant writing effort for the Community Gardens. The immediate ask is for heavy equipment to be used at Collins Lane such as tillers and a heavy duty riding lawn mower. The future asks will be for site preparation costs for the second acre to be developed in the future. Chuck Marr can provide guidance in the grant process. Linda reminded the Board that she as the UFM official must review and approve any completed grant applications before submission.

Dick submitted to Linda some bills from recent work at Collins Lane.

Pat asked for coordinators for the 2012 workdays and socials. There will be two coordinators for each date. The coordinators will be:

March 3 rd workday	John & Ron	April 7 th workday & social	Dick & Max
May 5 th workday & social	Dale & Leila	June 9 th workday & social	Pat & Cybil
July 14 th workday	Kruger & Ron	August 11 th workday	Dick & Dale
Sept. 8 th workday & social	Kruger & Leila	October 6 th workday	Cybil & John
November 3 rd workday & annual meeting	All Board Members		

Dick suggested the following dates for new gardener equipment orientations: Saturday, February 18th; Saturday, February 25th; Saturday, March 3rd (all mornings) & Thursday evening, February 23rd. New gardeners will need to be sent emails to notify them of these important sessions. Linda reminded the Board about the Manhattan Garden Show February 25th & 26th. There is a full slate of volunteers to staff the table for the Community Gardens. Dale moved and Ron seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. Gardener registration followed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Dale Stearns, Secretary