

Manhattan Community Gardens

Minutes of June 6, 2012 Board Meeting

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

Pat called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. at the Bluestem Bistro meeting room. Minutes for the May Board meeting were distributed to the Board via email one week ago. There were no corrections identified prior to the meeting. Max moved, Dick seconded and the motion carried to approve the minutes. Linda gave the Treasurer's Report. The \$5000 grant was received.

Purchases as outlined in the grant include another storage shed for Collins Lane and equipment. John has been getting the best price quotes and is making the purchases. Linda is optimistic that the Community Foundation will approve our grant application in the next month. \$537 was received from CROP, a smaller amount than prior years. Dale moved, Dick seconded and the motion to accept the Treasurer's report carried.

Committee Reports

Dick gave the following Equipment Committee report: expenses for the month of May totaled \$175.45; \$116.98 for Collins Lane & \$58.47 for Riley Lane. The breakout of costs are gasoline \$17.15 @ Collins Lane & \$8.86 for Riley Lane; oil costs of \$12.99 split between both locations. Repair costs were \$87.63 for a Collins Lane tiller & mower & \$26.83 for a Riley Lane tiller. A bolt extractor, \$32.55, was purchased for the Collins Lane mower repair and the costs were split between the two sites. The remaining expense, \$16.27, was Round-Up for Collins Lane.

Pat gave the report for the Grounds & Maintenance Committee. The mowing has been satisfactory for the gardens. The dry weather has helped.

Cybil gave the report for the Correspondence Committee that over 100 email contacts have been made to her from gardeners and the public, including requests to be added to the email newsletter list from non-gardeners. Cybil mentioned that organic gardeners will be speaking at the June social on organic gardening techniques. Tomato cage building is also being planned for an upcoming social. Cybil also reported that Susan Schoenweis has started a Facebook page that several gardeners are connecting to as an informal networking opportunity for gardeners. It is a non-UFM and non-Board page. John volunteered to check the Facebook page periodically.

Leila indicated that a draft newsletter will be shared with the Board later in June prior to publishing. She is seeking articles to be included. A bindweed control article was suggested.

Dale gave a brief CROP report indicating that last year's walk was not as well organized and publicized and as a result raised less money; however the money donated by the gardeners was substantially larger than in the past.

Max gave a Compost and Mulch Committee report indicating that 3 hay bales were bought and delivered to the gardens. Two loads of mulch will be delivered each to Riley and Collins Lanes. Max will see about having the wood chip pile at Riley Lane moved off the street. The transfer station compost piled at Collins Lane needs some additional time to ferment. There is some concern about chemicals in the compost since it is from yard waste however most experience with it has been positive with no harm to garden plants.

Ron had a report for Rules and Safety identifying several plots in violation of condition rules, with most due to inactivity. The plots are: Riley Lane SE85, SE88 and E26. Some of the plots in the organic area have serious bindweed problems: SW 32, 38, 39, 44 & 45. The paths between the plots also have bindweed problems. There is some poison ivy at Collins Lane that John is working to eradicate.

Kruger reported for the Records Committee, providing lists of volunteers for Saturday's workday and social.

John reported for the Collins Lane Committee that there has been some settling of soil in the areas where trenching had been done. Pat has moved sand in to fill holes. The lightweight hose at the wash rack isn't holding up well but John has additional hose donations to replace it. John asked for a small work crew to come to Collins Lane on Saturday for some basic grounds maintenance. John detailed the purchases of new equipment with the grant, including tillers and mowers. John recommends holding back the new equipment this year since most of the use has been completed with the older equipment. Place more emphasis on equipment training next year for gardeners and use the new equipment beginning next year. The Board had a brief discussion about equipment training but no action was taken.

Old Business

It was reported that 3 new gardeners are still lacking orientation. Providing several sessions of orientation has been a burden on Pat and last year was a burden on Dick. The Board discussed ways to do orientation in future years to reduce the burden on the President. Producing a video was suggested by Kruger to allow new gardeners more flexibility to access the orientation information.

Dale and Leila reported on a successful May workday and social. Both events were well attended. Work completed included removal of small brush, weeding flower beds and public areas, putting landscape fabric and wood chips on several paths at Riley Lane and weeding at Collins Lane. The social had a lot of good food for gardeners to enjoy. Dale gave a list of the volunteer workers and food providers for the social to Kruger.

New Business

Linda received bills for payment prior to the meeting so there were no bills submitted during the meeting.

Pat and Cybil described their plans for the June 9th workday and social. The workday will run from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and the social will follow with a presentation on organic gardening at 11:00 a.m. Pat will get extra tables from UFM to use. John plans to have bottled water and ice available at both Riley and Collins Lanes for the work crews. The bottled water and ice is donated by Hy-Vee.

The Board discussed plot reassignments. There are 10 gardeners on the waiting list. As plots become available due to abandonment, Linda can identify who is next on the waiting list and that gardener can choose to register for the plot.

A committee was formed to consider future plans with the additional plots at Collins Lane for 2013. John will chair the committee which includes Ron, Leila and Cybil. They hope to provide a report at an upcoming Board meeting.

John reported that he has been in contact with Lawrence Community Gardens to see about fruit trees and orchard plans for the future at Collins Lane.

Cybil reported that the Landscape Architecture class at Kansas State will probably not be working on future plan designs for Collins Lane in the fall semester. She hopes that they can work it into their schedule in a future term.

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, July 11th at 5:45 p.m. at Bluestem Bistro in Aggieville. Board members wanting to get a meal should come at 5:30 p.m. The July workday will be Saturday, July 14th.

Ron moved for adjournment, John seconded and the meeting closed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Stearns