

Manhattan Community Gardens

Minutes of May 2, 2012 Board Meeting

Present: Pat Butler, 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. Minutes for the April Board meeting were distributed to the Board via email one week ago. There were no corrections identified prior to the meeting. Ron moved, Cybil seconded and the motion carried to approve the minutes. Linda gave the Treasurer's Report. The report broke out the Collins Lane and Riley Lane expenses in the budget. Linda noted that we have received 96% of projected revenue and that we are waiting on the CROP payment. She reported that we have spent 49% of the expected expenses. Dale moved, Ron seconded and the motion to accept the Treasurer's report carried.

Committee Reports

Dale gave the Equipment Committee report that Dick submitted prior to the meeting. Equipment repairs required expenditures of \$91.09, \$25.67, & \$50.37 for the month of April. The majority of repairs were for tiller repairs. Repair costs for Collins Lane were \$87.18 and the Riley Lane repair costs were \$49.68 with \$30.27 being expended for gasoline. Additional repair parts for a Riley Lane tiller are on backorder and all tillers will need an oil change in May. The majority of the repairs were due to routine 'wear & tear' to the equipment and this amount of repair costs is not unusual considering the age of the tillers and high number of hours the tillers were used in April.

Pat gave the report for the Grounds & Maintenance Committee. All plot tilling is up to date and mowing arrangements are being made.

Cybil gave the report for the Correspondence Committee that all the emails have been sent to the workday and social volunteers for this Saturday.

There were no reports for the CROP and Newsletter Committees, but there are plans for a late June newsletter.

Max gave a Compost and Mulch Committee report indicating that supplies are well-stocked with very rich compost at Collins Lane.

Ron had a report for Rules and Safety stating that the May 15th deadline for plot activity is approaching. He will be contacting gardeners who haven't taken action to give them a chance to respond. There are some potential abandoned plots at both Collins and Riley Lane.

Kruger reported for the Records Committee, providing lists of volunteers for Saturday's workday and social to Leila and Dale. Kruger also had a list of the gardeners lacking Orientation.

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.

Old Business

The Board discussed how to proceed with the list of gardeners lacking Orientation. It was decided that we concentrate on the new gardeners. Pat will arrange another Orientation session for the new gardeners.

Cybil moved and Ron seconded to insert the word "new" in paragraph 16, section 1 of the gardener rules. It would read: "All new gardeners are required to attend an Equipment Orientation session." Motion carried.

The April 7th workday at Collins Lane was well-attended and successful.

Linda reported that she is waiting on the funds for the approved \$5000 grant and the results of the submitted grant application.

New Business

Pat gave bills to Linda for payment.

Leila and Dale discussed the work tasks for the May 5th workday and social. The workday will be at Riley Lane with a small work crew will go to Collins Lane. The social will follow the workday and be held at Riley Lane.

Pat and John reported on their meeting with representatives of the City about services to be provided for the development of the second set of garden plots at Collins Lane. It was a positive meeting. The City is willing to move top soil from the north gardens area and the airport construction site to Collins Lane for future garden plot development. They have approximated that 20 loads of dirt will be hauled. The City Landscape Designer will plan a loop irrigation system for the next garden section at Collins Lane and the City will install the water lines. There is also some tree removal on the next garden plots area that the City will perform and site grading will be done by the City. A large used lawn mower is being donated by the City for Collins Lane, including maintenance on the mower for the first year.

The Board discussed mowing at Collins Lane. At this point John will use the large riding mower being donated. More volunteers to do regular push mowing at Collins Lane are needed. The Board will permit gardeners to trade their workday commitments for a month of push mowing at Collins Lane.

Ron led a discussion on some plots with weed condition problems. At Riley Lane, plot 73 has a serious bindweed problem. Also a plot 103 has been established as a new plot by the garden shed. A new gardener, Ron Streit, is interested in it. At Collins Lane, plots 72 & 66 are overgrown, plot 43 hasn't been gardened, and plots A1a & A2a have not been planted. Overall the garden plots are in good condition.

Jenny Chang submitted a complaint that her garden plot fence has been damaged and some plants in her garden were disturbed. She has spoken to Max, Linda, Ron and Cybil about the matter. It is quite possible that the high winds of the past couple of weeks caused the damage. The Board will acknowledge her complaint but does not have any action it can take in response. Dale and Leila will offer assistance to Jenny at the Saturday workday to move some railroad ties that she has in her garden plots. The Board discussed concerns about the persistence of the complaints that are annually filed by Jenny. The response strategy will be to acknowledge the complaints that are made in writing, realizing that there may not be any other action that can be taken. Cybil volunteered to be the "go to" Board member when Jenny needs to express her concerns.

Ron moved to adjourn, Cybil seconded and the meeting closed.

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, June 6th at 5:45 p.m. at UFM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Stearns