

Manhattan Community Gardens

Minutes of September 5, 2012 Board Meeting

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

Pat called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. at Radina's meeting room. Cybil asked Pat to add weeding compliance to the agenda in old business and rules and by-laws in new business. Minutes for the August Board meeting were distributed to the Board via email one week ago. There were corrections identified prior to the meeting. Ron moved, John seconded and the motion carried to approve the corrected minutes. Linda gave the Treasurer's Report. Linda identified that we have about \$7,000 cash on hand in the treasury. We added one new gardener for fall and hay was purchased. Dale moved, Kruger seconded and the motion to accept the Treasurer's report carried.

Committee Reports

Dick gave the following Equipment Committee report: Equipment expenses totaled \$29.46 for the month of July. Expenses for Riley Lane totaled \$11.45 for a tiller repair and \$18.01 for Collins Lane gasoline.

Pat gave the report for the Grounds & Maintenance Committee noting that there are new people mowing for the month of September.

Cybil gave the report for the Correspondence Committee indicating that she responded to email questions from gardeners and sent out reminders for the workday and social. There are several workday re-assignments. There are 4 gardeners who expressed interest in shredding garden waste.

Leila reported that she will be circulating the draft newsletter in late September as it will be mailed to gardeners in October.

Dale gave a brief CROP report indicating that he set up the website for CROP donations and walkers. The CROP Walk will be Sunday, October 14th at 2:00 p.m. beginning at the First Presbyterian Church on Leavenworth St. Kruger provided a list of the CROP donors and amounts from the records to Dale. Linda would like to double check the list with her records.

Ron provided a Rules and Safety Committee report. He discussed actions with gardeners out of compliance with weeding. Cybil asked Ron to provide more specific details on his actions with these gardeners. Ron indicated that he made first hand inspections of the plots before contacting the gardeners. He contacted the gardeners with out of compliant plots by phone or in person. Cybil emphasized the use of letters as the means of contact to be more consistent with the garden rules. Ron indicated his preference to have direct contact to speak with the gardeners.

Kruger distributed the list of workers for the September workday from the Records Committee.

John reported that sunflowers were removed from the Collins Lane gardens. Jack Conrow assisted with mowing at Collins Lane on the riding mower. The equipment at Collins Lane is running well. John will arrange to have the portable toilets removed from the gardens by December 1st.

Old Business

John provided equipment purchase recommendations to be purchased with the grant funds. The equipment recommendations were discussed by the Board. Ron moved, and Leila seconded to purchase 2 Craftsman Mantis-type small tillers with 4 cycle engines at \$295 plus tax and 1 Husquavarna tiller with forward and reverse features at \$450 plus tax. Motion carried. Consideration will be given to the purchase of a shredder as more information comes available.

Leila shared information on 2013 gardener registration dates, times and locations and asked for Board volunteers to assist with these registrations. Plans are to offer targeted returning gardeners the opportunity to volunteer by helping with registrations. Linda said that, depending on her staffing, UFM may be able to do the initial database for 2013, but she requested input regarding the database format. Board members will contact her with recommendations.

Ron gave a report on the long range planning process. He identified people to be members of the long range planning committee. Cybil made the motion that interested gardeners also be given the opportunity to serve on the Long Range Planning Committee. The motion was seconded and approved. Leila and Cybil volunteered to prepare an article for the newsletter to invite gardeners with interest and expertise in long range planning. Ron also explained draft principles for the long range planners to follow in the process. These principles will be discussed further at the next Board meeting.

John explained the advantages of adding another Board member for 2013 and forward. John moved, Cybil seconded and the Board approved adding another Board member using a 3-3-4 rotation with 3 year terms.

Dale and Dick reported on a successful August work day at Collins Lane.

Ron and Dick reported on the outstanding volunteer assistance received from a group of K-State students at Riley Lane.

Weed compliance problems including a pathway mulched in hay at Riley Lane and several plots with weed concerns were discussed. Ron will inspect and follow-up with the gardeners as needed.

New Business:

There were no bills submitted to Linda at the meeting.

Pat reported that we have a new source for hay/straw, Duane Sherwood. His contact information will be given to Max.

Leila and Kruger will be coordinating the September workday which is being rescheduled to September 15th to avoid the football game conflict. Riley Lane projects can be forwarded to them. There is a social with this workday.

Pat shared that he has spoken to gardeners interested in being nominees for the 2013 Board. Pat, Dick and Dale's terms expire at the end of 2012. Cybil and Leila volunteered to serve on a nominating committee. Names mentioned as potential nominees were Chance Lee, Cheryl Boyer, John David Maddox, John Drach, and Dean Zollman. John moved and Leila seconded to approve the nominating committee. Motion carried. Cybil and Leila will formalize the nominations. Pat indicated that he wants to make sure that the gardeners he asked (Dean Zollman, Cheryl Boyer, J. David Maddox, and John Drach) have the chance to be nominees if they desire.

Pat and Dick brought up the recommendation to relocate the compost piles at Riley Lane. It is suggested to remove plot 66 to make a new compost pile that is centrally located and more accessible for truck dumps. The Board is supportive of the action. Two new garden plots can be established where the compost piles were.

The Board discussed corn stalk shredding. The difficulty for gardeners is that the current shredder will plug during use. A larger, more powerful shredder is needed.

Pat reported that next Wednesday, September 12th at 2:00 p.m. he and John will meet with Dennis and Eddie from the City about the expansion of the 2nd acre at Collins Lane. Other Board members are welcome to join them for the meeting.

Cybil noted that an annual review of MCG's current By-Laws and Garden Rules is important to make sure that these documents are current and clear. She offered to review the current documents and bring any recommended changes to the Board's attention at the October Board meeting. This will provide the required notification necessary for changes to the By-Laws, which will need to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Dale moved to adjourn and Leila seconded. Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 3rd at 5:45 p.m. at Radina's meeting room.