

**Manhattan Community Gardens
Minutes of January 9, 2013, Board Meeting**

Present: John Rodgers, J David Mattox, Ron Downey, Jenn Campbell, Linda Teener, Leila Maurmann, Max Urick, and John Drach.

John R called the meeting to order at 5:25 pm at Radina's meeting room. John R stated for the upcoming year agendas will be available the evening before the Board meeting and prior Board meeting minutes will be available when arriving at the scheduled Board meeting.

Minutes for the December Board meeting were reviewed. Max moved approval and Linda seconded, and the motion carried.

Linda gave the Treasurer's report. Linda noted for the year end report the Collins Lane expenditures were high but it reflects the cost of expansion. The report also included some 2013 plot rentals collected in 2012. Linda also noted Reserves from \$10,000 to \$15,000 possibly need to be considered for large expenditures, for example drilling a new well. Reserves would also be needed to pay all plot deposits should an unforeseen event occur. Ron moved acceptance of the report, John D seconded, and motion carried. John R extended thanks to Linda for all she does on behalf of the Garden Board.

Committee Reports

Compost & Mulch-Max Urick provided a handout outlining the current arrangements regarding compost and mulch. Compost is obtained from the Riley County Transfer Station and the KSU Dairy Barn. Hay mulch has been obtained from George Ebert and 50 small straw mulch bales were recently obtained. Max will stay aware of additional options related to mulch. Max also made the Board aware of mulch that would be available from the Riley County Fair stock pens. The consensus of the Board was not to accept the offer due to possible hog diseases and hog antibiotics used being able to be transmitted to humans from the mulch.

Newsletter-Leila reported a newsletter is planned for either late January or early February. It was suggested an article be included reference to proper garden mulching. Any other articles need to be emailed to Leila.

Tilling-No report.

Equipment-John D and J David reported the equipment is ready to be used. John R reported considerable shredding was completed for the Riley Lane gardens.

Correspondence-No report

Riley Lane-John R presented a map showing the Riley Lane east garden boundary. Garden space is being used up to the boundary.

Collins Lane- John R noted he has checked the Collins Lane pump house numerous times this winter and the temperature remains around 60 degrees.

Records-No report

Garden Show-Dean and Max are planning the event scheduled for February 16-17 and have reviewed a prior year checklist. A sheet of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) will be

developed. Board members will be requested to review the questions and answers and provide additional ones. Linda will pick up items to give away as has been done in the past. Max will try to obtain a free banner for use at the event.

Rules & Safety-Ron reported no response has been received in reference to an email sent to a Riley Lane gardener in reference to a structure and shrub in the plot. Other Board members will review the plot and possibly other plots for further discussion at the next Board meeting.

Plot Registration-Leila reported all going well. The dates for new gardener's registration are Jan 27th (3-5pm), Feb 4th (6-8pm) and Feb 27th (6-8pm).

Public Relations-Jenn developed templates for flyers for the new gardener registration. The templates were reviewed.

2013 Planning-No Report

Collins Lane Long Range Planning-Ron reported he has requested ideas for long range planning and is receiving a number of ideas. He will schedule a meeting in late January to review the ideas and start the process.

Riley Lane Plot Discussion

John R presented an option for the Riley Lane compost location after an on-site review was completed by John R and John D. The across Ninth Street residents have expressed dissatisfaction about the current compost location. Lot 73 (old 66) is also not an option due to close residents. The recommendation is to have one compost site at Riley Lane and place it at the northeast end of Eighth Street, not on the street but on the dirt beyond the street. Hay mulch can still be stored at this location but more to the west end of Eighth Street but not blocking the drainage ditch. Wood chips may need to be stored at the north end of Ninth Street. Lot 100 (old 93) will be opened for gardeners. A new plot, west of lot 1 (old 102) will be created once all compost has been used. The Board voiced consensus approval of the above option. It was requested no further compost be delivered to Riley Lane until almost all compost has been used that is currently located west of lot 1 (old 102). Through consensus approval, the Board also noted lot 73 (old 66) and lot 110 (old east 1) will be for the special needs population. J David agreed to obtain a special needs parking sign to be located for the parking space adjacent to lot 73. Garden plot(s) for the special needs population will also need to be considered for the Collins Lane location.

Old Business

J. David reported that the City of Manhattan will install and furnish materials for two additional water hydrants for the gardens east of Eighth Street. The Board agreed to furnish the actual hydrants if the City's offer did not include the hydrants. The Board authorized J. David to contact the City and proceed with the line and hydrant installation between lots 127 and 128 (old east 22 and 13) and lots 111 and 118 (old east 19 and 27).

Linda and John R reported a new 5 year lease has been executed with the City of Manhattan for the Riley Lane garden location.

John R reported a case of vandalism was reported by the gardener on lot 97 (old southeast 90). A portion of the fence was down between lots 97 and 103 (old southeast 90 and 96). John R and John D visited the site and question if it was vandalism. The fence was repaired. It is rather assumed a deer, large dog, or disoriented person knocked down a portion of the fence.

New Business

Leila and Linda reported the current gardener registration has gone really well. One hundred five gardeners have registered. It is anticipated the new gardener registration will be accomplished in great shape as well. Emails will be sent to Board members requesting assistance to complete the new gardener registration.

Linda reported she has written a grant proposal in the amount of \$2500.00 for a new shed at Collins Lane. She should hear in April if the grant is approved. We may receive a donation of the necessary shed materials; however we would be responsible to build the shed. John R reported another option is the purchase of a 12 foot by 16 foot Tuff Shed for a cost of about \$2800.00. The decision as to which option to pursue will be completed once we find out if the grant is approved. The Board through consensus approval decided the shed will be placed on lot A 42 on Collins Lane.

The Riley Lane mowing requirements were discussed. By consensus approval, the Board decided mowing needed to be completed around the storage shed, north of the Peace Pole, along the railroad tracks from Ninth to Eight Street continuing along the railroad tracks to the east garden boundary, and also along the east garden boundary. Ron will contact the property owner along the garden's east boundary to assure neighbor cooperation is maintained.

The next meeting will be on February 6 at Radina's, optional social at 5:15 with the meeting beginning at 5:30. Ron moved the meeting be adjourned, Linda seconded it and the motion passed.