

**Manhattan Community Gardens
Minutes of July 10, 2013, Board Meeting**

Present: Leila Maurmann, Ron Downey, Linda Teener, Kruger Bryant, Pat Butler, Cybil Perkins, J. David Mattox, Max Urick, Jenn Campbell, Dean Zollman and John Drach.

Leila called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm at the UFM meeting room.

Time was provided for prior Board minutes to be read. Ron moved approval of the minutes, Pat seconded, and the motion carried.

Linda gave the Treasurer's report and it was discussed in detail. John moved approval of the report, Pat seconded, and motion carried. The Board agreed with Linda through consensus that a recognition plaque be posted naming the Garden Board members when the Collins Lane gardens were established.

Committee Reports

Compost & Mulch-Max noted all compost and mulch supplies are in good shape. It was noted no word has been received concerning the availability or cost of additional compost from the transfer station. Linda will provide a status update by email. It was also noted if any gardener has concern about any chemicals in the compost or mulch that is provided, they should provide their own for their own use.

Newsletter-Leila reported the next newsletter is scheduled for September or October.

Tilling-Pat noted the committee is current. Discussion occurred related to non-cared for or abandoned plots. Contacts have been made and violation letters have been issued.

Equipment-John noted all equipment is operational. The Board authorized Cybil to purchase a second potato fork for Riley Lane. The Board also authorized John to purchase a second heavy duty grass/weed trimmer for Collins Lane at a cost between \$150 and \$250.

Correspondence-Cybil reported considerable emails were generated this last month on a variety of subjects.

Riley Lane-Ron noted the Riley Lane gardens are in good shape. Discussion occurred related to non-cared for or abandoned plots. Contacts have been made and violation letters have been issued. Kruger moved and Jenn seconded the motion that the gardeners on plots 9 and 57 be given one month to address the weed situation. The motion passed.

Records-Kruger noted it appeared around 39 gardeners have completed the yearly requirements. The June workday was very successful. The planed tasks were completed by a number of people.

Garden Show-No Report

Rules & Safety-No report.

2014 Plot Registration-No report.

Public Relations-No Report.

Collins Lane- Max provided a handout. The moving of the Tuff shed is on the back burner until fall or winter. There are at least three major low places in the roads. J David agreed to see if he could obtain and have placed street sweepings in these areas as a short term solution. The wood pile is also on the back burner until after a freeze or until the weeds can be controlled. People doing the mowing will be informed of the areas to be mowed and to also move any tree branches in the area. The poison ivy is being sprayed on an every 2 to 3 week basis. No action was taken in reference to the large tree limb next to plot A72. Additional cleaning stations were discussed with Cybil stating some gardeners may be willing to build these in lieu of completing their workday assignments. Small benches were also discussed to be built over time. Straw bales could be used in the short term.

Collins Lane Long Range Planning-Ron reported a meeting occurred on July 8th. The following list of projects were developed:

- Fruit tree orchard
- Garden meeting area
- Solar driven well/irrigation system
- Infrastructure items at Collins Lane
- Garden management-it was noted this item is broader than just Collins Lane.

A questionnaire will be developed and used in the 2014 garden registration to capture the skills of gardeners so those skills can be used in the above and other tasks associated with the gardens.

It was noted Dr. Rhonda Janke was scheduled to do a talk about eco-friendly gardening at both Riley and Collins on July 20th. Publicity will take place.

Old Business

The consensus of the Board was to keep the maple tree next to A72. J David agreed to consult with the county in regards to the tree.

New Business

The July workday activities scheduled for July 13th have been coordinated by Dean and Ron.

The HyVee photo will occur at Collins Lane on July 13th at 10:00 am. HyVee provided a \$5000.00 donation to the Gardens to be used as the Board deemed appropriate. The donation is considered to be \$1000 per year. HyVee provided signage will be placed at both Riley and Collins for the next five years. The donation was indeed appreciated. HyVee also provided seed packets for distribution.

Due to Leila teaching a fall evening class, the Garden Board meetings were changed to the first Thursday of each month beginning in September. John announced he would be out of town during the scheduled August Board meeting. Jenn tentatively agreed to take the minutes.

The City of Manhattan has replaced the water hydrant by the shed on Riley Lane after J David made the contact.

Any gardener concerned about the bermuda grass coming from walkways or other areas is responsible to hoe or dig it out.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm through a motion made by Ron, it was seconded by Pat and the motion carried.