

Manhattan Community Gardens Board Meeting

July 2, 2008 5:45 PM

Those present: Linda Teener, Chuck Marr, Pamela Been-Redeker, Jenny Guilford, Stoner Smith, Patty Zehl, Susan Peterson, and Brad Debey

1. Treasurer's Report:

Linda Teener reported that we are under budget for the year. We got an extra \$32.00 from the Crop Walk, and Susan Peterson brought in another \$20 plot rental fee.

2. Committee Reports:

A. Equipment Maintenance:

Stoner Smith reported that all equipment is running, but he cited several problems involving the equipment and shed area. Gardeners continue to misuse and abuse the tillers and mowers. Someone used the wheelbarrow along the railroad tracks, which flattened the tire. A wheelbarrow full of our tools was found left out of the shed. Someone inexplicably sprayed the lock with red paint, and the large red gas can disappeared for a couple of days and reappeared empty. People are stashing trash in the garden sheds.

Here are some of the remedies we found to address these issues: The new wheelbarrow has hard rubber tires, so flats won't be a problem. Stoner suggested that we only fill the smaller gas cans because they are easier to manage. We discussed the ongoing trash problem and decided to have Susan Peterson call George Mallon and inquire about a bimonthly trash pickup. If it is reasonable, we will authorize it, and place a trash can just east of the portable toilet in the shed area.

B. Grounds Maintenance and Tilling: no report

C. Flower Bed Maintenance:

Pamela Been-Redeker reported that the North Garden Bed needs weeding, but it looks okay in most places. A few committee members have done a fine job. The trash problem seems to have abated a bit with the construction of the high wall on the east side of Howie's. We all agreed Butches SE garden area looks terrific.

D. Rules and Safety:

Brad Debey reported that he has sent out 4 or 5 letters, all of them to new gardeners, about the need to weed their plots. We discussed ways to motivate/assist new gardeners with their weeding. Chuck Marr will write up some weeding strategies and techniques to be included in the letters Brad mails.

E. Compost and Mulch:

Jenny Guilford reported that there is a large pile of wood chips on the north side of the tracks in the North Garden, and we can get more if we

want them. The big round bales of Gamma Grass are almost gone, so we decided to order 6 or 7 more to get us through the fall gardening season. They cost \$40.00 each, plus fuel, time, and mileage.

F. Education and Newsletter:

Patty Zehl reported that the regular newsletter will be in the mail next week. Garden Members will also receive a mailing about project PLANTS, a community elementary educational program Patty is managing through KSU and USD 383. Chuck Marr will add an article on "Keeping up the Harvest." Chuck reported that the Electronic Newsletter readership list continues to grow by about 2 to 3 new members per week. He plans to send items on dealing with squash bugs, as well as some guidelines for fall gardening. He cited some difficulty responding to individuals; all he has is a list, and he doesn't have any way to link email with actual people. Jenny Guilford is submitting an item about the Dialog for Sustainability, which will be held on July 17th. It will feature a tour of the KSU Student Farm at River Pond State Park.

G. Records:

Susan Peterson reported that there have been no surrenders, and no plots are currently available.

H. Garden Socials and Crop Walk:

The next Garden Social will be Friday, August 1st at 8:00 PM.

3. New Business:

1. Policies or rules regarding Plot Rentals:

Do we put both a HOME address and a MAILING address on the application? We agreed that we should. It was moved, seconded and approved that we make that change in the application for next year.

2. Next Garden Social:

It will be advertised in the newsletter, and it will be August 1st at 8:00 PM.

3. Ideas to make the transition to 2009 board easier:

We will have 3 openings on the board for next year. We agreed to give anyone who fills our spot all the information we can to help them with their responsibilities.

4. Fall Clean Up and Potluck:

The date is set for Saturday, November 1st from 8:00 AM to noon, with November 8th as the rain date. The November Board Meeting will be held at 12:00 PM. We decided to have Susan Peterson conduct an early sign-up for existing gardeners that day from 8:00 to 11:00 AM. Another opportunity for existing gardeners to sign-up will be provided at the December Board Meeting. The last chance for us to sign up before our plots become available to new gardeners will be scheduled for the first Wednesday in February.

4. Next Meeting: August 6, 2008 at 5:45 PM.