

Manhattan Community Gardens Board Meeting: March 5, 2008

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:50 PM.

2. Items to be added to the Agenda:

\* The Witmer Sisters

We revisited the Witmer issue because the Cornells would like to sign up for four plots in a row, but we had "saved" a couple of plots for the sisters. We discussed this and agreed that we would give the Witmers N#24 and N#44 if they are interested in gardening this year. Susan is going to contact them this week and get a definitive answer from them, so that we can assign those plots or open them up for other gardeners.

\*Open Plots

Bob Brown during the Garden Show wondered whether we actually have open plots. There are 8 returning gardeners who have not shown up or paid. That is around 10%, which is not bad.

\*Committee Reluctance

Some returning gardeners flat out said they would not sign up for a committee. What do we do about that? It led to a discussion of what do we do when people volunteer and fail to fulfill their commitment. No decision came out of this topic.

4. Treasurer's Report:

We have had a lot of money coming in, and our only expenses have been for maintaining the portable toilet (\$90), printing, and The Garden Show.

5. Correspondence and Announcements:

Patty brought the latest ACGA publication and several gardening catalogs to share.

6. Committee Reports:

A. Equipment Maintenance-no report

B. Grounds Maintenance and Tilling-no report

C. Flower Bed Maintenance-no report

D. Rules and Safety-no report

E. Compost and Mulch:

Jenny has researched acquiring big round bales of hay, and has been quoted this price for Weed Free Wheat Straw: \$3.75 per loaded mile (from near Lincoln, NE) which comes to about \$600 a truckload. She is also going to look into Prairie Hay and Alfalfa. It was suggested that we consult the classifieds in the Grass and Grain, as well as check with Animal Science at KSU. There is a big load of wood chips down at the garden now.

F. Education and Newsletter:

Next newsletter is to be mailed week of spring break, to be in homes prior to March 29<sup>th</sup> Spring Clean Up. If anyone has articles or information to include, contact Patty.

G. Records-no report

H. Garden Socials and Crop Walk-no report

7. Old Business:

\* The New Water Lines:

Brad Debey met with The Pond Guys last week, and they are going to put in the new water lines soon, maybe as soon as it dries out just a bit. The Pond Guys say the posts are no problem; they can just pull them up and put them back when they're finished.

\*Concrete Blocks:

Chuck Marr is going to show Howie where the blocks are and Howie will be happy to get a skid loader in and remove them for us.

8. New Business:

\*Spring Clean Up Preparations:

The Spring Cleanup is March 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM. Susan Peterson will not be able to come for the whole day. We will not need a burn permit. We assigned the projects and responsibilities as follows:

1. North Garden- Pamela and Lynda

Our committee will work on dividing and assigning the specific areas of the North Garden each member will be responsible for maintaining.

2. North end of 8<sup>th</sup> Street, South end of 9<sup>th</sup> Street-Susan

Susan will coordinate removal of the soil and debris that is causing a drainage problem in the 8<sup>th</sup> street area. Soil could possibly be used as fill in the area vacated by the concrete blocks. There is also debris in the 9<sup>th</sup> Street area that will need to be removed.

3. Shed clean up and maintenance- Chuck

Chuck will coordinate volunteers to clean sheds as well as check for any damage or repairs incurred over the winter. Chuck is also going to deal with the fruit trees near E23.

4. Composting Sites-Jenny

Jenny's group will work on setting up the pallets and establishing the sites and committee members' responsibilities.

5. Paths-Lynda

Lynda will organize a group to work on paths. Newspaper and/or cardboard are available at Howie's.

6. Refreshments: Newsletter will encourage everyone to bring their own cup...

Chuck- Coffee

Lynda-Pastries from Panera (donated)

Pamela-Juice

Next Meeting- Wednesday, April 2, 2008, 5:45 PM

