

Manhattan Community Gardens Board
Minutes for Wednesday, July 7, 2010 Meeting

Members Present: Don Benniga, Dick Green, Kellan Kershner, Chuck Marr, Dale Stearns, Jeanne Squires and Linda Teener. Guest: Melissa Winter.

Chuck called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. at the Community Garden Equipment Shed Porch.

Dale provided the Secretary's Report. The June minutes were approved by consensus with one addition. It was noted that the garden cart was approved for purchase and has since been purchased. Linda provided the Treasurer's report. The budget and expenditures are tracking as planned with half of the year complete and about 50% of the budget spent. Linda noted that the bills for the portable toilet service were late and have now been received and paid. Chuck asked about the frequency of the service for the portable toilet. Linda believes that it is every two weeks but will check to be sure.

Chuck had one announcement regarding the situation of a homeless man who was using the shed porch as a place to sleep at night. The man left his backpack at the equipment shed recently. The backpack was found and secured in the shed. Since losing the backpack the man has not returned to the Community Garden. Susan attempted to return the backpack to the man through a social worker. The man didn't want to claim his backpack. Fortunately, the homeless man is no longer trespassing on the Community Garden property.

Committee Reports:

Dick gave an Equipment Committee report indicating expenditures of \$70 for various minor equipment parts and \$40 for fuel. Dick noted that the red mower is using oil and may need to be replaced in the near future

There was no report for Ground Maintenance, Tilling and Flower Bed Maintenance Committees.

Kellan gave a Rules and Safety Report. He did a July 5th garden walkthrough. Kellan sent one warning letter in June regarding lack of care and weeding for a plot. He has 7 letters to send for July as weeds are getting ahead of more gardeners. The N58A plot appears to be abandoned. Kellan moved and Dick seconded to approve N58A as an abandoned plot. It will be cleared at the July 10 workday and made available to a gardener from the waiting list for fall gardening. Kellan also reported his findings from his inquiry about mowing practices of the recent mowing volunteers for the Community Garden. A primary problem has been mowing parking areas as cars are parked at the time of mowing and the area is inaccessible to the mower. This may be addressed at workdays.

Don gave a Compost and Mulch Committee report indicating that 2 new round bales of hay were delivered in June and have been fully used. The Board recommended that no more new hay be purchased this year since the mulching time has passed.

Jeanne gave an Education and Newsletter Committee report stating that she plans to do the next paper newsletter to go out mid-August. Jeanne is also coordinating the July Garden Social and is planning to do an Ice Cream Social and will announce it via the email news.

There was no Records Committee report.

Dick reported on a successful June Social, which was a Flag Day evening cookout.

Old Business:

There has been no known activity in June regarding the situation with Tracey and his menacing behavior at the garden from earlier this spring.

There still is an unfilled Board vacancy and there will be another opening as Kellan will serve through the August Board meeting and then will be moving out-of-state. Chuck seeks suggestions for possible Board members.

New Business:

Dick and Chuck will lead the July 10th workday. Dale will lead the August workday and will host a Breakfast Garden Social to precede the work at 8:00 a.m. on August 7th. Chuck and Jeanne will include in upcoming email news and the paper newsletter the need for workday volunteers who may have been absent from their workday to make-up the service in one of the upcoming workdays.

Chuck asked for feedback on the wording of the no trespassing signs being purchased. It was agreed to keep the signs simple and use the wording "No Trespassing, Gardeners Only." Six aluminum signs will be ordered at a cost of \$30 per sign.

The Board revisited the policy on maximum plot assignments per gardener. The current rules allow up to 4 plots. After a brief discussion the Board decided to make no changes to the policy.

Don shared a concern expressed to him by Howie from Howie's Trash Service regarding Howie's parking of vehicles on 9th St. Howie has received complaints from a gardener about his vehicle obstructing access for the gardener. The Board concurred that Howie is entitled to use the parking space on 9th St. and is a good neighbor for the Community Garden. Gardeners will be advised through the email news and the newsletter not to make any complaints directly to Howie. Any such concerns should be expressed to the Board.

Chuck concluded the meeting with a demonstration about "Mountain Magic" Compari tomatoes and his experience in growing them this season.

The next Board meeting is Wednesday, August 4th at 5:45 p.m. at the Community Garden Equipment Shed. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Stearns, Recording Secretary