

**Manhattan Community Gardens
Minutes of the October 13, 2010 Board meeting**

Present: Chuck Marr, Don Benniga, Dick Green, Pat Butler, Susan Oviatt, Jeanne Squires, Dale Stearns, Linda Teener and guest, Joe Hanna.

Chuck called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. The meeting was held at the Equipment Shed Porch at the Gardens. The minutes of the September Board meeting were reviewed and approved. Linda provided the Treasurer's report. She responded to questions about the carryover of funds from one year to the next. Her report was accepted.

Chuck announced that Howie's Trash Service will dig out gravel in an area near the north plots and replace it with soil. Chuck also reported that there has been vandalism in the north plots where the water hydrants have been left on causing flooding in the garden areas near the hydrant. The hydrants may need to be secured to put an end to the problem.

Committee Reports:

Dick gave an Equipment Committee report stating that \$8 has been spent in the past month for a pull cord replacement and a tire repair for a garden cart.

Pat reported that D&R Construction, in care of Don Crubel, has donated siding that can be used for the small utility shed.

Chuck gave a Rules Committee report for Kellen indicating that all violation letters were sent in September. Kellen has moved to Indiana and will not be serving on the Board further.

Don gave a Compost and Mulch report regarding the delivery of an additional load of compost for the fall garden preparation season.

Jean gave an Education and Newsletter Committee report stating that the next newsletter is in draft form with plans to print it and mail it next week. The newsletter will indicate gardeners who have not completed their volunteer commitment for 2010 and it will announce the November 13th work day opportunity as well as the Annual meeting, the Garden Social and Plot registration/renewal for returning gardeners.

Dale gave a Crop Walk report. \$150 was raised by 3 gardeners who participated in the October 10th walk.

Chuck reviewed the details for Saturday, November 13th with the Board. The workday and garden plot clean-up will be from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The annual meeting for all gardeners will be from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Equipment Shed. The Garden Social will follow the meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with a soup lunch being served. The registration of returning gardeners for plots will be from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. In case of inclement weather the workday, annual meeting and social will be cancelled but the UFM will serve as a back-up site to proceed with the returning gardener registration. Chuck emphasized that the November 13th workday and social will be a make-up opportunity for gardeners who have not fulfilled their volunteer commitment. If gardeners who need to make-up hours are unable to participate on November 13th, then they can contact Chuck and may be able to make other arrangements. There will be arrangements for "snow bird gardeners" who may move south prior to November 13th to register early. All Board members should plan to attend the workday, annual meeting, social and registration.

In a related matter, Chuck announced that November 1st is the deadline for returning gardeners to request an additional plot for next year. Chuck and Susan will serve as the Plot Reassignment Committee to review and act on requests. This deadline will be communicated in the email news and the printed newsletter.

Chuck indicated that the Board has two reclaimed plots from the Whitmer sisters that will need extensive work to clear. By consensus the Board approved spending up to \$25 per hour to employ someone to clear the plots this fall.

The Board discussed a suggestion to increase the plot deposit from \$10 to \$25 to discourage gardeners from walking away from their plots with extensive work necessary to reclaim them. Chuck will bring this idea up at the annual meeting to get feedback from the gardeners as a whole.

To help facilitate the clean-up of the garden areas this fall the Board is obtaining a dumpster from Howie's Trash Service to be available at the Community Gardens from November 1st -15th .

The Board discussed Gardener Rules for 2011. There were no changes initiated.

Chuck announced the Board nominees for 2011. They are Cybil Perkins, Ron Downey, Erica Huber (to fill Kellen's vacancy) and Melissa Winter (yet to be fully determined).

The meeting adjourned as the sun was setting for the evening.