

## **Manhattan Community Gardens**

### **Minutes of April 4, 2012 Board Meeting**

Present: Dick Green, Pat Butler, Ron Downey, Linda Teener, Dale Stearns, John Rodgers, Max Urick, Cybil Perkins and Kruger Bryant.

Pat called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. Minutes for the March Board meeting were distributed to the Board via email two weeks ago. There were corrections identified prior to the meeting and a corrected copy was sent. Ron moved, John seconded and the motion carried to approve the minutes. Linda gave the Treasurer's Report. The report broke out the Collins Lane and Riley Lane expenses in the budget. Linda noted that we have an \$8500 cash balance and that we are waiting for the receipt of the \$5000 grant and the CROP payment. A grants received line item has been added to the report. Dale moved, Ron seconded and the motion to accept the Treasurer's report carried.

#### Committee Reports

Dick gave the Equipment Committee report. He spent \$66 on tiller repairs. The equipment is in good working order.

Pat gave the report for the Grounds & Maintenance Committee. All plots have been tilled.

Cybil gave the report for the Correspondence Committee. She has sent emails to new gardeners with welcomes and prior email newsletters. She lacked the information on the last Orientation sessions and the attendance was poor.

It was reported for Leila that 16 gardeners attended Chuck's Introduction to Gardening class. She asks the Board members to be thinking about the next newsletter.

Dale had no report for CROP Walk and Ron had no report for Rules and Safety other than the fact that he will be publishing articles on weed control for email news and the newsletter.

Max gave the Compost and Mulch Committee report, indicating that cattle barn compost will be ready for delivery next week. He will have the first load of composted manure delivered to Collins Lane and the second load to Riley Lane. If additional loads can be hauled he will have an additional load delivered to each garden site. Max reported that transfer station compost will be ready in 3-4 weeks. Max talked to David Hughes about the possibility of storing compost that will need 6-8 months of fermenting at Collins Lane. It will make space available at the transfer station for more compost handling. The transfer station would still deliver ready compost. The stored compost will be helpful for the development of the second gardening acre at Collins Lane. Max added that the wood chip supply at Collins Lane is low. It will be re-stocked when the city trucks become available for hauling.

Kruger reported for the Records Committee that he needs to coordinate records with Cybil for her correspondence needs.

John reported for the Collins Lane Committee that the gardens have vegetables up and growing. He found Morel mushrooms in the wooded area at Collins Lane. Three picnic tables were built and donated by Keith Swanson. Leila started 3 flower beds. John got a burn permit for Collins Lane to burn limbs and roots for clean-up after April. He made repairs to the yellow mower and tiller.

### Old Business

Linda detailed plans for the April 10<sup>th</sup> dedication of the Collins Lane gardens. She shared a copy of the invitation that has been sent to government officials, supporting businesses, and friends of the gardens. Community gardeners will receive an email invitation. Linda will make opening remarks, one of the County Commissioners will speak and then Pat will make remarks about the work done at Collins Lane. The Chamber of Commerce will coordinate the ribbon cutting. It is doubtful that the Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack will be able to attend. Ron extended the invitation to Secretary Vilsack's assistant. Representative Lynn Jenkins will be in Manhattan on April 10<sup>th</sup>. John volunteered to invite her.

Pat stated that the last 2 Orientation sessions were not well-attended. It will be necessary to have additional sessions to help the newest gardeners. The last Orientation sessions will be Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. and Wednesday, April 18 at 5:45 p.m., with both sessions at Collins Lane.

Linda reported that the gardener database is up to date with only ½ plot unrented. Linda distributed the plot maps with gardener names identified. There was a brief discussion on the raised bed plot used by Big Lakes Development Services for their clients.

Dick and Max will coordinate the April 7<sup>th</sup> workday at Collins Lane. Their hope is to get the garden area in good shape for the dedication ceremony. The workday includes a social which will be a brunch. Cybil has sent email notices to the participants.

The Board is very pleased with the success of the grant proposal awarding \$5000 to the Community Gardens for equipment at Collins Lane. The Board thanked Ron and Linda for their work on the successful proposal and other grant proposals. Linda reported that she will meet with Ron Fehr from the City about the \$5000 contribution from the City. If he insists on an in-kind service contribution, then it will be for the entire project of developing the second acre of gardens at Collins Lane.

## New Business

The Board thanked John for his success and negotiating a substantial cost reduction for the portable toilet service at Riley Lane and Collins Lane.

Leila and Dale will coordinate the May 5<sup>th</sup> workday and social. The workday will be at Riley Lane, however a work crew will go to Collins Lane to weed the flower beds. The social will follow the workday and be held at Riley Lane. There was a brief discussion on the need for new picnic tables at Riley Lane.

Cybil reported that she established an herb garden area after weeding the bed surrounding the peace pole at Riley Lane. She will invite additional gardeners to add herbs.

Cybil shared some statistics about our gardeners. Of the 147 total gardeners, 60 of them are new gardeners to Manhattan Community Gardens. That is 41% of the gardeners. The Board discussed the effectiveness of the orientations, gardening class, workdays and socials at integrating the new gardeners. Cybil asked the Board to be thinking of any other ways to integrate these new gardeners. Most Board members feel that the informal one on one helping approach can work the best.

Dale moved to adjourn, Ron seconded and the meeting closed.

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, May 2nd at 5:45 p.m. at UFM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Stearns