

Manhattan Community Gardens

Minutes of July 11, 2012 Board Meeting

Present: Pat Butler, Dick Green, Leila Maurmann, Linda Teener, Dale Stearns, Max Urick, Cybil Perkins and Kruger Bryant.

Pat called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. at Radina's meeting room. Minutes for the June Board meeting were distributed to the Board via email one week ago. There were corrections identified prior to the meeting. Max moved, Dick seconded and the motion carried to approve the corrected minutes. Linda gave the Treasurer's Report. All grant money has been received with \$1600 yet to be spent. There is some flexibility in spending the \$1600 Community Foundation grant. There was a brief discussion to clarify the plot rental deposit expense line in the report. Dale moved, Dick seconded and the motion to accept the Treasurer's report carried.

Committee Reports

Dick gave the following Equipment Committee report: Equipment expenses for the month of June totaled \$73.50; \$40.13 for Riley Lane & 32.97 for Collins Lane. Fuel expenses for Riley Lane were \$8.70 and \$13.25 for Collins Lane. Fuel consumption remains in line with prior year's usage. Next service activity will be changing oil in the lawnmowers later this month.

Pat gave the report for the Grounds & Maintenance Committee. Plot 26 was recently tilled. Mowing for July is progressing.

Cybil gave the report for the Correspondence Committee indicating that she has had standard communications with gardeners this past month.

Leila reported that the newsletter was published and mailed to gardeners. The other Board members commended Leila for her work on the newsletter.

Dale gave a brief CROP report asking Linda to keep a look out for the notice of the August organizational meeting for the Manhattan CROP Walk.

Kruger distributed the list of workers for the July workday from the Records Committee.

Old Business

Orientation: Ideas were discussed about how to reduce the burden on the Board members for 2013. The key reasons for the Orientation are risk management and training. An emphasis will also be placed on teaching new gardeners how to safely use the equipment.

June Workday and Social: Pat and Cybil reported that 26 workers and 13 social volunteers participated. The Social was attended by approximately 60 gardeners with presentations on organic gardening provided by Sylvia Beaman and John Exdell. Tomato cages were made and sold with a small profit made.

Volunteer Assignments: 3 gardeners have been identified who didn't sign up for volunteer activities. This will be resolved.

Cybil suggested that the water hydrants at the gardens be set up to provide drinking water and that drinking fountains be included in the development of the second acre at Collins Lane. Pat indicated that

attachments with 2 valves can be added to each hydrant in the existing gardens so that gardeners can access drinking water. He will look into it. It is a good suggestion considering this summer's heat.

New Business

There were no bills submitted during the meeting.

Plans for the June 14th workday were discussed. Ron needs a substitute as coordinator. Kruger, John and other Board members will cover. The primary tasks are path chipping at Riley Lane and weeding of the flower beds.

The Board discussed the waiting list and talked about the additional methods that we can use to share information about the community gardens with interested future gardeners throughout the year. One suggestion is to put information brochures in a box at both gardens.

Leila and Cybil, representing the sub-committee for long-term planning, shared a few of the discussion points from their first meeting, but reported that they will need several more meetings before the sub-committee is able to present finalized recommendations to the Board. The sub-committee is concentrating on ways the MCG can adapt its structure, policies, and procedures to better serve its rapidly increasing membership, with priority given to registration and orientation, since that will have to be dealt with in a few months. The Board had some suggestions regarding Equipment Training: it does not have to be a yearly requirement for returning gardeners, but rather obligatory for new gardeners and optional for anyone else who wants further training. It was also suggested that perhaps we could have a waiver for those gardeners who do not use the motorized equipment.

We had a brief discussion on volunteer requirements for gardeners with half plots. Their commitments are the same as other gardeners. If a gardener brings a spouse or friend to help with the gardener's volunteer shift, we will continue to record that as one (1) shift.

Plots with weed problems were discussed. Ron has done a good job on contacting gardeners with weedy plots.

Collins Lane mowing was discussed because it took July's volunteers 6 hours to complete the mowing, using the push mower. It was suggested that the mowing areas be divided into areas for the push mower and areas for the riding mower. There could be a separate committee of gardeners specifically trained and assigned to do the Collins mowing using the riding mower, which would reduce the work load of both John, who has been doing the riding mowing alone, and all of the current mowing volunteers.

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, August 1st at 5:45 p.m. in Aggieville.

Dale moved for adjournment, Linda seconded and the meeting closed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Stearns