

Manhattan Community Gardens

Minutes of March 7, 2012 Board Meeting

Present: Dick Green, Pat Butler, Leila Maurmann, 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 February 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. John moved, Dick seconded and the motion carried to approve the minutes. Linda gave the Treasurer's Report. She is breaking out the Collins Lane and Riley Lane expenses in the budget. Max moved, Dale seconded and the motion to accept the Treasurer's report carried.

Committee Reports

Dick gave the Equipment Committee report. He spent \$54 on tiller repairs, oil and gas. Replacement of the black tiller at Riley Lane is needed. Small tillers were discussed but it was agreed that at this time the replacement tiller needs to be full-size.

Pat gave the report for the Grounds & Maintenance Committee. All plots have been tilled to date for those gardeners who paid for tilling service.

Cybil gave the report for the Correspondence Committee. Cybil produced fliers to promote plot rentals and to date all the plots seem to be rented. North gardeners were notified to remove items from last year's plots before Howie's takes possession. Linda will be working to double-check the database so that Cybil has the most accurate list to email. Chuck will be finalizing the plot map with gardener names.

Leila provided Ron's report for the Rules & Safety Committee that safety information will be posted at Riley Lane and Collins Lane. The non-emergency phone number to contact the police is 537-2112. The emergency number is 911.

Leila provided a newsletter report. The first edition for 2012 has been received by gardeners. She also reported that a mentoring meeting is being planned for an upcoming Saturday once publicized via emails to gardeners. Chuck will be teaching an Introduction to Gardening course on Saturday, March 24th that will be very helpful for new gardeners.

Max gave the Compost and Mulch Committee report, providing an updated contact information sheet for all the compost and mulch supplies. Max indicated that compost at the Riley Lane west end is adequate for now but the east end is low. There will not be any compost available for 30 days. Collins Lane had 11 tons of compost provided and it has all been used. There won't be more available until May 1st. If we can find compost, Max can have it delivered. Hay mulch will be delivered next week, weather permitting, with 2 bales at Riley Lane and Collins Lane. The wood chip supply is adequate at both gardens. Max also noted that gardener Keith Swanson has volunteered to build a picnic table for the gardens in lieu of his workday commitment. The Board welcomed the option.

Kruger reported for the Records Committee that there are 135 gardening families on 180 plots for 2012. He indicated that 12 of the 15 volunteers for the March workday participated. Also 105 gardeners attended the Orientations.

Dale did not have a CROP report.

John reported for the Collins Lane Committee that gardening has commenced, the porta-potty is in place and the successful March workday crew made significant progress on wood chip paths.

Old Business

John updated his progress on donations for Collins Lane. He indicated that Menard's will give us a good discount on 100' garden hoses. The Home Depot has donated spades and hoses. Waters Hardware can donate to us returned equipment items that we need. HyVee Store will donate bottled water for future workdays. Midwest Concrete donated concrete blocks for the compost bin at Collins Lane.

Linda confirmed that all plots are rented. There is some double checking to be done to insure that we don't have duplicate renters.

Linda detailed the recent submission of grant applications. We are among 90 applicants for a \$5,000 grant. We have applied to the Community Foundation for \$1500 to purchase a tiller and mower. We have a letter of intent to the Caroline Pine Foundation for equipment and other large expenses.

The City of Manhattan should provide us with \$5,000 cash as a contribution from the sale of the north gardens to Howie's. Linda will work with Ron Fehr, City Manager to secure the funds.

New Business

Pat reported that we have no major bills outstanding.

We will have additional Orientation sessions for gardeners on Wednesday evening, March 28th and Saturday morning, March 31st.

Max commended Linda for a job well done in preparing for the City Commission meeting. The Board concurred with Max's appreciation for Linda's work. The Commission made a resolution to keep Riley Lane as a green space for no future development as well as the \$5,000 contribution to the Community Gardens.

Cybil reported that we had a request to move railroad ties from a gardener plot. It is a very heavy job and it may be considered as part of an upcoming workday if there are enough young, strong backs for the job.

We discussed plans for the April workday and social. Dick and Max are coordinators. Dick suggested the purchase of geo membrane for underneath the wood chip paths to stop weeds.

Cybil indicated that Landscape Architecture instructor Blake Belanger is considering having his class work on a master plan for Collins Lane in the fall semester.

Pat reminded us that Howie's will take possession of the north gardens on April 1st.

We discussed a formal dedication of the Collins Lane gardens on Tuesday, April 10th to coincide with Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack's Landon Lecture. The lecture time is to be announced. It is likely that the dedication would need to be in the afternoon. Linda, Leila and Ron will look at preliminary plans.

John moved to adjourn, Max seconded and the meeting closed.

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, April 4th at 5:45 p.m. at UFM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Stearns