

Manhattan Community Gardens

Minutes of October 3, 2012 Board Meeting

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

Pat called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. at Radina's meeting room. Cybil asked Pat to move the proposed by-law changes to old business. Minutes for the September Board meeting were distributed to the Board via email one week ago. There were corrections identified prior to the meeting. John moved, Ron seconded and the motion carried to approve the corrected minutes. Linda gave the Treasurer's Report. Linda noted the purchase of new tillers and the upcoming purchase of a shredder. Linda also mentioned that the CROP donations will be realized in the November report as the donation was made as an online credit card transaction. Dale moved, Kruger seconded and the motion to accept the Treasurer's report carried.

Committee Reports

Dick provided the following Equipment Committee report via Dale: Equipment expenses totaled \$23 for the month of September. There were no expenses for Riley Lane and the Collins Lane expense was \$23 for gasoline. Dick recommends the following action authorizing the Equipment Committee Chair to expend up to \$250 for year-end annual maintenance and repairs. The materials and supplies include engine oil, sparkplugs, air filters, mower blades (as needed), and miscellaneous nuts and bolts. Ron moved. Max seconded and the motion carried.

Pat gave the report for the Grounds & Maintenance Committee noting that he is very pleased with the September mowers.

Cybil gave the report for the Correspondence Committee indicating that she has sent out several reminder emails to gardeners who need to make-up a workday commitment in October.

Leila reported that the newsletter will be mailed this week.

Dale gave a brief CROP report indicating that an additional \$25 in donations was received through the website. The CROP Walk will be Sunday, October 14th at 2:00 p.m. beginning at the First Presbyterian Church on Leavenworth St. Cybil will assist Dale in sending thank you emails to the gardeners who donated to CROP.

Max gave the Compost and Mulch Committee report. He indicated the decision was made not to use plot 66 at Riley Lane for a central compost pile. The pile by the equipment shed will continue to be used this fall. Max reported that Riley County delivered compost to Collins Lane and that composted beef manure will be delivered to both Collins Lane and Riley Lane this month.

Ron provided a Rules and Safety Committee report. He reported on contacts made with non-compliant gardeners with weedy plots. He has a couple of abandoned plots to be dealt with at the work day. Ron also responded to a complaint made by a gardener who may have had their plot disturbed by others.

D 11/3/12 10:14 AM

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D 11/3/12 10:14 AM

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D 11/3/12 10:16 AM

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D 11/3/12 10:17 AM

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D 11/3/12 10:17 AM

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Deleted: identified that we have about \$7,000 cash on hand in the treasury. We added one new gardener for fall and hay was purchased.

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D 11/3/12 10:21 AM

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D 11/3/12 10:22 AM

Deleted: responded to email questions from gardeners and sent out reminders for the workday and social. There are several workday re-assignments. There are 4 gardeners who expressed interest in shredding garden waste.

D 11/3/12 10:23 AM

Deleted: she will be circulating the draft newsletter in late September as it will be mailed to gardeners in October.

D 11/3/12 10:24 AM

Deleted: indicating that he set up the website for CROP donations and walkers.

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Deleted: Kruger provided a list of the CROP donors and amounts from the records to Dale. Linda would like to double check the list with her records.

D 11/3/12 10:31 AM

Deleted: discussed actions with gardeners out of compliance with weeding. Cybil asked Ron to provide more specific details on his actions with these gardeners. Ron indicated that he made first hand inspections of the plots before contacting the gardeners. He contacted the gardeners with out of compliant plots by phone or in person. Cybil emphasized the use of letters as the means of [... [1]

Kruger gave the Records Committee report reviewing the list of gardeners needing to fulfill their volunteer commitments. Various Board members were able to update and correct the list. Kruger distributed the list of workers for the October workday. Kruger and Leila will move the gardener database from Excel to Access for 2013. This will improve the ability to generate reports.

D 11/3/12 10:36 AM

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John gave the Collins Lane report. Many improvements continue at Collins Lane. John distributed photos including the donated cutter bar in use, the additional equipment shed and the storage of tillers and mowers, the next acre being developed with tree and stump removal by the city crews, and the pile of wood chips from the stump removals. John thanked J. David Mattox for his coordination of the tree and stump removal. John anticipates excavating, trenching and waterline installation by the city crews under Dennis Brown in late October and early November. John shared ideas to make upcoming socials at Collins Lane more family friendly. He has access to many low cost rental items. The Board will consider these for future socials. John indicated that the growth at Collins Lane will necessitate another storage shed and more tools for the future. He also recommended the purchase of new garden hoses now as a good value. Ron moved, and Max seconded to authorize John to purchase twelve 100 foot long kink free hoses from Menard's for the second garden acre at Collins Lane. Motion carried.

D 11/3/12 10:38 AM

Deleted: reported that sunflowers were removed from the Collins Lane gardens. Jack Conrow assisted with mowing at Collins Lane on the riding mower. The equipment at Collins Lane is running well. John will arrange to have the portable toilets removed from the gardens by December 1st.

D 11/3/12 10:49 AM

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D 11/3/12 10:50 AM

Deleted: John provided equipment purchase recommendations to be purchased with the grant funds. The equipment recommendations were discussed by the Board. Ron moved, and Leila seconded to purchase 2 Craftsman Mantis-type small tillers with 4 cycle engines at \$295 plus tax and 1 Husqvarna tiller with forward and reverse features at \$450 plus tax. Motion carried. Consideration will be given to the purchase of a shredder as more information comes available.

D 11/3/12 10:53 AM

Deleted: Leila shared information on 2013 gardener registration dates, times and locations and asked for Board volunteers to assist with these registrations. Plans are to offer targeted returning gardeners the opportunity to volunteer by helping with registrations. Linda said that, depending on her staffing, UFM may be able to do the initial database for 2013, but she requested input regarding the database format. Board members will contact her with recommendations.

D 11/3/12 10:59 AM

Deleted: Ron gave a report on the long range planning process. He identified people to be members of the long range planning committee. Cybil made the motion that interested gardeners also be given the opportunity to serve on the Long Range Planning Committee. The motion was seconded and approved. Leila and Cybil volunteered to prepare an article for the newsletter to invite gardeners with interest and expertise in long range planning. Ron also explained draft principles for the long range planners to follow in the process. These principles will be discussed further at the next Board meeting. John explained the advantages of adding another Board member for 2013 and forward. John moved, Cybil seconded and the Board approved adding another Board member using a 3-3-4 rotation with 3 year terms.

D 11/3/12 11:33 AM

Deleted: Dale and Dick reported on a successful August work day at Collins Lane.

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Old Business

Plans for the 2013 plot registration were briefly reviewed. The dates and times will be publicized in the newsletter and through the weekly email news.

Ron shared an update on the Long Range Master Plan process. An article in the newsletter will invite gardeners who either want to be part of the planning process or have ideas to suggest for future plans. John will receive and coordinate the responses. Cybil asked about the planning principles. Ron indicated that the planning principles will be discussed and formalized when the Future Planning Committee meets. The Board can review the planning principles then.

Kruger reported on the September workday and social. There was a big turnout with 12 food contributors and 25 work volunteers.

Linda explained the updated language in the by-laws. In Article IV. Membership, Section 1, membership at Riley Lane is open to Manhattan residents and at Collins Lane membership is open to Riley County residents, Manhattan residents included. In Article V. Membership Meeting, section 4, the quorum for the annual meeting is increased from 10 to 20 people. In Article VI. Board of Directors, section 1, the Board number is not less than 5 or more than 13 (an increase from 11). Board members need to represent both Riley Lane and Collins Lane. And, in Article IX. Committees, section 1, the pool for Committee members was expanded to include the community-at-large as appropriate and with Board approval. This allows the expertise of non-gardeners to be utilized. Cybil moved and John seconded to accept the proposed changes for review and approval by the membership at the annual meeting. Linda also shared the new federal poverty guidelines to be used for 2013 plot subsidy.

New Business:

John submitted a bill to Linda at the meeting.

Cybil shared plans for the October workday and social on Saturday, October 13 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Collins Lane with the social following the work. There will be shredding for corn stalks and other garden debris at both Collins Lane and Riley Lane from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. We may have student volunteers helping with the workday.

Leila detailed the application process to have a Monarch butterfly garden. Dick and his wife Barbara have established an area at Collins Lane that meets the criteria. The Monarch butterfly garden does need to include milkweed. The fee is \$16 and there will be a sign to purchase identifying the area. The Board supports Leila moving ahead with the process. Ron moved and Dale seconded the expenditure of up to \$40 for a Monarch butterfly garden. Motion carried.

Pat explained the USDA moth trapping project at Riley Lane. It is designed to attract and collect moths. The attractants will be tested and collected moths will be used for other testing. The project will not disrupt the gardens.

Plans for the annual gardener meeting were discussed. Saturday, November 10th will include a workday at Collins Lane from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.; the annual meeting will begin at 11 a.m. The potluck will follow at noon. If we have inclement weather on November 10th, then the alternative will be Saturday, November 17th. There will be games, a cake walk, a raffle and a garden tour. John volunteered to coordinate the hobo stew as the main entrée. Gardeners will be invited to bring vegetables for the stew and a side dish or desert to share. These things will be publicized in the newsletter.

Serving as the nominating committee, Leila and Cybil presented Dale a letter with the slate of Board nominees for 2013 including: Jennifer Campbell, John Drach, J. David Mattox, and Dean Zollman. They will be presented to the membership at the November 10th annual meeting.

Ron moved and John seconded and the meeting adjourned. The next meeting is the annual meeting on Saturday, November 10th at Collins Lane at 11 a.m.

D 11/3/12 11:45 AM

Deleted: Pat reported that we have a new source for hay/straw, Duane Sherwood. His contact information will be given to Max.

D 11/3/12 2:01 PM

Deleted: Leila and Kruger will be coordinating the September workday which is being rescheduled to September 15th to avoid the football game conflict. Riley Lane projects can be forwarded to them. There is a social with this workday.

D 11/3/12 12:08 PM

Deleted: Pat shared that he has spoken to gardeners interested in being nominees for the 2013 Board. Pat, Dick and Dale's terms expire at the end of 2012. Cybil and Leila volunteered to serve on a nominating committee. Names mentioned as potential nominees were Chance Lee, Cheryl Boyer, John David Maddox, John Drach, and Dean Zollman. John moved and Leila seconded to approve the nominating committee. Motion carried. Cybil and Leila will formalize the nominations. Pat indicated that he wants to make sure that the gardeners he asked (Dean Zollman, Cheryl Boyer, J. David Maddox, and John Drach) have the chance to be nominees if they desire.