

**Manhattan Community Gardens
Minutes of February 6, 2013, Board Meeting**

Present: John Rodgers, Ron Downey, Jenn Campbell, Linda Teener, Leila Maurmann, Dean Zollman, Kruger Bryant, Pat Butler, Cybil Perkins, and John Drach.

John R called the meeting to order at 5:28 pm at Radina's meeting room and provided time for prior Board minutes to be read. No special report was provided by the Vice President. After review of the January Board meeting minutes, Ron moved approval, Linda seconded, and the motion carried.

Linda gave the Treasurer's report. Linda provided a proposed 2013 Budget in addition to the January income and expenses. The proposed Budget indicated expenses may be higher than income. Ron moved acceptance of the report, John D seconded, and motion carried.

Committee Reports

Compost & Mulch-It was noted an email had been received that compost was available from the Agronomy Department located at Throckmorton but no transportation was available. J David will be informed for possible action.

Newsletter-Leila reported a newsletter is planned for around March 1 which will include the volunteer assignments. Other items to be included need to be emailed to Leila.

Tilling-Pat requested the number of volunteers and garden plots requested to be tilled. Leila agreed to provide the information known to date by email.

Equipment-No special report as the equipment is ready to be used. John R reported some additional shredding needs to be completed at the Riley Lane gardens.

Correspondence-Cybil reported approximately 100 emails have been generated related to the registration process. Cybil has updated the 2013 email distribution lists. Separate lists will be maintained for all gardeners, Riley gardeners, Collins gardeners, all organic gardeners, all new gardeners, all receiving the newsletter, late season new gardeners, and Board members. Cybil also reported the e-newsletter will begin the third week in February.

Riley Lane-Ron reported the gardener on lot 5 (old 2) has cleaned up the lot as requested. Concern was raised regarding lots 83 (old 76), 89 (old 82), and 103 (old 96). Discussion followed. It was noted the gardener abandoned lot 83 (old 76) so work day or Board member action will be required to clean-up this lot. It was also noted the gardener on lot 103 (old 96) may not be healthy enough to remove the existing trees in the plot or plot fence lines. It was suggested the gardener for lot 103 (old 96) also remove the installed lock. Ron agreed to correspond with the gardeners for lots 89 (old 82), and 103 (old 96) regarding these issues. Ron reported he intends to pursue making raised beds for lot 73 (old 66) at no cost to the Gardens. It was suggested that we refer also to the old lot numbers as we transition to the new lot numbering at Riley Lane.

Collins Lane- John R noted the Collins Lane pump house winter temperature has remained around 60 degrees. John R also reported a small dumpster has been delivered with an agreed cost of \$25.00 for dumping on an as needed call basis.

Records-Kruger and Leila reported there are 121 returning gardeners and 25 new gardeners to date. Forty-five garden plots remain between the locations.

Garden Show-Dean and Max have planned the event scheduled for February 16-17 with our location being the same as prior years. Adequate volunteers have been obtained. The Frequently Asked Questions and Answers (FAQ) have been developed as an aid for the volunteers. Linda will complete the set up and John R will complete the tear down.

Rules & Safety-Ron noted rules discussion occurred when discussing Riley Lane as noted above. Ron also noted the rules are posted on the UFM Garden website for all to reference.

Plot Registration-It was noted all went well with everyone's assistance. Jenn suggested for next year the Frequently Asked Questions and Answers (FAQ) developed for the Garden Show also be included in the registration packet.

Public Relations-Jenn developed templates for flyers for the new gardener registration which were posted a number of places around town. Jenn will also contact the Mercury for an item in the paper for the final new gardener signup scheduled for February 27th.

Collins Lane Long Range Planning-Ron reported he has received a number of ideas for long range planning. He will schedule a meeting for the committee to review the ideas. Additional ideas such as bird houses still can be submitted to Ron.

Old Business

Linda reported no word has been received regarding the \$2500.00 grant request to be used for a new shed at Collins Lane.

Leila stated she had sent a map to Ron that outlined the area to be mowed at the Riley Lane gardens.

John R thanked Board members for the information submitted in reference to the Riley County Fair stock pens mulch. As noted in last month's minutes, the Board declined the offer.

John R reported the City of Manhattan will install and furnish materials for two additional water hydrants for the gardens east of Eighth Street. Weather has delayed completion but is expected soon.

New Business

The last new gardener registration is scheduled for February 27th. Cybil provided the names of those agreeing to help that evening.

John R reported he has a couple of sheds in mind should the \$2500.00 grant request be approved. John R noted that Collins Lane plots A41, A42, A47, and A48 will not be available to be rented due to rocks under the surface. As noted in last month's minutes the proposed shed will be placed on lot A 42. The shed can be moved should the rocks be removed.

John R reported all locks at all locations have been changed to 3913 for this year. Cybil will email returning gardeners the combination.

Considerable discussion occurred related to the Garden Rules. John R stated all Board members and all gardeners are expected to comply with the Garden Rules as all are adults. Leila noted for

the February 4th new gardener registration, the Garden Rules quiz requirement had been eliminated. Instead each gardener received a copy of the Garden Rules and the rules were discussed. Each gardener signed a statement that they had read and understand the Garden Rules. Ron suggested the Board take a soft approach in administering the Garden Rules but discuss the Garden Rules with any gardener should the rules not be followed. Ron moved the orientation for new gardeners be eliminated as the gardeners received a copy of the Garden Rules and a statement is signed that they had read and understand the Garden Rules. Pat seconded, and motion carried. It was the consensus of the Board the above approved motion does not include equipment orientation. Cybil moved that equipment orientation not be mandatory for gardeners but opportunities will be provided for hands-on training. Linda seconded, and motion carried. Cybil agreed to edit the existing Garden Rules for Board review at the March meeting.

John R reported UFM provided a MCG banner. It will be used at the Garden Show.

John R reported the tilling classes (equipment orientation) will be held at the Collins Lane gardens on February 24th at 3 pm, February 28th at 5 pm, and March 2nd at 10 am. Chuck Marr will provide a Beginning Gardener class at the UFM location on March 2nd at 9 am.

Chris Stephens has donated a purple martin birdhouse and he is making the pole for the birdhouse. Chris will take care of the birdhouse. It was reported the birdhouse will be erected near the proposed shed on Collins Lane plots A41, A42, A47, and A48.

Leila and John R agreed to chair the March 9th work day at Collins Lane at 9 am. The alternate date is March 16th at Collins Lane at 9 am. Future work day assignments will be completed later. It was noted a large number of volunteers have signed up for April but few have signed up for August.

The water at all garden locations will be turned on based upon the weather but no later than March 1.

The next meeting will be on March 6th at Radina's, optional social at 5:15 with the meeting beginning at 5:30. Pat moved the meeting be adjourned, Linda seconded it and the motion carried.