

Manhattan Community Gardens Board Meeting

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held on March 2, 2016, in the UFM fireplace room. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by President, Dale Hayden. Minutes for January 6, January 27, and February 3, 2016 were approved as submitted. Treasurer Report: see attached report, 2 lawnmowers were purchased from Blueville for \$537.39

Members present: Dale Hayden, Bob Pfannenstiel, Travis Kummer, Linda Teener, Carol Barta, Jay Guarneri, Eli Martinson, Gary Schwandt, Susan Schoneweis, Cheryl Arthur, Patrick McLaughlin, Deane Lehmann

Absent: Steve Williams

Committee Reports

- 1) Records: There are 27 plots unassigned at Riley and Collins total, with more at Collins than Riley. March 27th Farmer's Market registration and information, possibility of another UFM registration? Jay is to talk to &/ set up information table at First United Methodist Church in April during Wednesday community meal. Gary to post information about MCG for USD 383 employees.
- 2) Tilling: Some plots are done, continuing to till at both gardens.
- 3) Public Relations: Results of survey were presented. About 50% of surveys were returned. Most gardeners were completely satisfied with their MCG experiences. Most felt that any issues were dealt with effectively. Most appreciated the opportunity of completing the survey. Problems reported at Riley were trampling and theft, for new gardeners it was weeds. Suggestions were to post Garden Coordinators' contact information, classes on weed identification, need more carts, wheelbarrows, and pitchforks. Board discussion ensued regarding signage to discourage theft at Riley and possibility of community social to encourage positive interaction between MCG and neighbors.
- 4) Equipment: Discussion of new mowers purchased. Tillers need repairs, usually done by Blueville, also ACE. Super unleaded gasoline has no ethanol and its use was suggested as ethanol eats carburetors of older machines.
- 5) Riley Lane: Plot 100 at Riley is for compost so that gardeners do not have to pull carts over curb. Some trees need to be cleared, request city haul away. Need bathroom back on-site. Water is on.
- 6) Collins Lane: Water is on and hoses will be placed during March workday. Brush needs to go to landfill. Some gardeners already extending plots beyond boundaries. Flower beds by tool shed need tending.
- 7) Nominations
- 8) Newsletter: Susan is working on newsletter for eminent publication!
- 9) Correspondence: None to report. Eli is working on newsletter and gardener membership list.
- 10) Compost/Mulch/Hay: Mulch is needed at Collins (30 tons)
- 11) Social: MCG supplies cups, plates and silverware for socials

Old Business

Susan read violation letters for first and second warnings. Deane will send drafts to everyone. No update on pesticide incident, some gardeners are asking. Registration events, see Records Committee report above. Windbreak at Collins: using red cedars that also attract sparrows.

New Business

Letter from Board President to remind gardeners to lock sheds and gates, no dumping of trash in gardens' common areas, no tilling/gardening outside assigned plots, tending fences that attract weeds inside plots? Dick Greene will do equipment training this Saturday. Riley at 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM at Collins. Jay will do a broad fork demonstration. An email was received from J. David regarding approximately 30 high school students to participate in the April 2nd workday. Board members suggested activities for them to do, e.g., trees at Collins, chipping at Riley. Eli and Jay will address this with J. David.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM by a motion from Deane Lehmann. Next month's meeting will be at 5:30 PM on April 6, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Arthur, Secretary