

**Manhattan Community Gardens Board
Minutes for Wednesday, May 5, 2010 Meeting**

Members Present: Don Benninga, Pat Butler, Dick Green, Kellan Kershner, Chuck Marr, Susan Oviatt, Dale Stearns, and Linda Teener.

Chuck called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. at UFM. One additional item was added for the agenda, a report on the CROP Walk planning for 2010.

Dale provided the Secretary's Report. Kellan noted a correction to strike the sentence "It was determined that at this time none of the structures discussed would be considered unsightly," from the discussion on Rule 21 interpretation. The minutes were unanimously approved with the one correction. Linda provided the Treasurer's Report. The purchase of the new tiller at \$860.38 was noted. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

Chuck made the following announcements:

- The dedication of the Fort Riley Community Garden was on Earth Day, April 22nd in Camp Forsythe. It was noted that the Fort Riley Community Garden is the largest on any military base in the nation.
- A visitor to the community garden named "Tracy" has become a nuisance and has made some gardeners feel uncomfortable with his presence. Chuck has checked with local authorities. The police have done some investigating regarding the concern. Chuck asked Board members to help monitor this situation and alert gardeners as needed. If a gardener feels threatened by this or any individual at the Community Garden, the gardener should contact the police directly at the time of the incident so that a report and charges can be filed.
- Two men have used the picnic table near the equipment shed as a place to relax and drink beer on a couple of occasions. They have not been disorderly. Their action is trespassing and they should be encouraged to leave.

Committee Reports:

Dick gave an Equipment Committee report stating that \$77 was spent on oil change supplies, tiller parts, and hydrant parts. Also, \$166 was spent on further hydrant repairs. Pat was able to take the parts from broken hydrants to make one functioning hydrant to save on costs. The hydrant on the north side was repaired with some plumber assistance. Dick reported that the black tiller has been given to a person for salvage. Dick will pursue some other possibilities of giving broken equipment beyond his repair for salvage.

Pat gave a Ground Maintenance and Tilling Committee report indicating that all requested tilling has been completed. Flower Bed Maintenance was done in the north bed as part of the May workday.

Kellan gave a Rules and Safety Report. We discussed 5 plots with maintenance concerns. If these plots have no activity by June 1st, then they may be available for re-assignment to gardeners on the waiting list.

Don gave a Compost and Mulch Committee report indicating that the wood chip supply has been replenished, more compost has been hauled in and piled in 2 locations and that hay and straw from last year will need to be used up before new is acquired. Some gardeners are reluctant to use the old hay and straw for mulch. Board members should encourage use of the old hay and straw. There is no reason for gardeners not to use it.

Chuck gave an Education and Newsletter Committee report. The newsletter has just been mailed, a couple of weeks later than originally planned. Copies were shared with the Board. Chuck continues to provide email news weekly on Fridays. He indicated that anyone who would like to add information to the email news should forward it to him by noon on Thursday. Chuck will add items to email news but not send individual emails on specific items.

Susan had no new information to report for the Records Committee.

Dale gave a report on planning for the 2010 CROP Walk. He attended a May 3rd meeting on the CROP Walk. The CROP Walk event is planned for Sunday, October 10th at 2:00 p.m. Approximately \$650-750 from the funds raised is provided to the Community Garden and is used to help subsidize garden plot rental costs for gardeners in need. Dale has volunteered to coordinate the recruitment of walkers and donors from the gardeners for the event. The recruitment process will begin in mid-August.

Old Business:

The painting of the equipment shed is being deferred to September/October to have a better opportunity to utilize student community service labor with Linda Bachelor's assistance.

New Business:

Board Vacancy – Chuck reported that no new Board member has been identified yet. He was unsuccessful with two contacts that he was given. Susan gave Chuck a new contact to try.

Using up old mulch – This was a continued discussion from the Compost and Mulch Committee report. It is suggested to move the current hay/straw piles to make it easier for gardeners to use this mulch up. Dick mentioned that he has a contact with a loader to move the piles.

8th Street Flower Garden – Kellan suggested that some type of barrier be established to protect the 8th Street flower garden from having brush and other refuse being dumped into it. After discussion of various ideas it was decided to set posts and use 2 strands of nylon rope to delineate the flowerbed.

The next Board meeting is Wednesday, June 2nd at 5:45 p.m. at UFM. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Stearns, Recording Secretary