

**Manhattan Community Gardens Board
Minutes for Wednesday, April 7, 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, discussion on adding a new Board member to fulfill a vacancy.

Dale provided the Secretary's Report. Kellan moved and Don seconded to accept the March minutes. Motion carried. Linda provided the Treasurer's Report. Kellan moved and Don seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Chuck made the following announcements:

- The dedication of the Fort Riley Community Garden will be on Earth Day, April 22nd at 10 a.m. in Camp Forsythe.
- The issue about the weed infestation of Bermuda grass in the organic garden section has been resolved for now. A plastic barrier is being used by the gardener affected to keep the grass on the walkway and out of the garden plot.
- Linda has been recognized as the recipient of the Susan Scott Community Leadership Award for her work in directing the UFM programs for the community's benefit.

Committee Reports:

Dick gave an Equipment Committee report stating that \$138 was spent on tiller parts for repairs. Also, \$144 was spent for hydrant parts, and new fork and rake handles. More hydrant repairs will be made with Pat assisting Dick on the work.

Pat gave a Ground Maintenance and Tilling Committee report indicating that all requested tilling has been completed pending one plot that first needs to be cleared. There was no report for the Flower Bed Maintenance Committee.

Kellan gave a Rules and Safety Committee report stating that the plots are in good condition from a rules standpoint. He asked that the Board discuss the interpretation of Rule 21 later in the meeting.

Don gave a Compost and Mulch Committee report indicating that the wood chip supply has been replenished and that hay and straw from last year will need to be used up before new is acquired.

Chuck gave an Education and Newsletter Committee report. Jean has prepared the draft paper newsletter to be mailed in mid-April. Chuck is providing email news weekly on Fridays.

Susan reported for the Records Committee that there were 2 participants for the rainy March 27th workday and 16 participants for the make-up April 3rd workday. Susan shared a form that she would like workday coordinators to use to report participants. Susan also indicated that 3 plots would be reassigned after the Board meeting to people on the waiting list for plots.

Old Business:

The issue of leaking hydrants is being addressed thanks to the work of Dick and Pat. The Board is very dissatisfied by the poor plumbing work done in 2009 on the hydrants by a local contractor.

Erika Huber has 6-7 applications for mentors and mentees for Garden Mentoring. These are good numbers for the pilot program

New Business:

New Tiller -- Given the recent repairs and problems with the Craftsman front tine tiller (excessive motor oil burning) and the large Craftsman rear tine tiller (rough shifting and sticking in reverse) and the approximate \$400 cost of repairs needed, Dick recommends the purchase of a new rear tine tiller. He gave 2 options to consider : a Craftsman rear tine tiller at \$645 w/tax or a Troy Bilt Pro-Line CRT rear tine tiller at \$860 w/tax. Kellan moved and Susan seconded that the Board purchase the Craftsman rear tine tiller at \$645. Motion carried. The old rear tine tiller will be offered to a local salvage/repair person.

Painting the shed – Student volunteers under the direction of Linda Bachelor may be available the rest of spring semester to do shed painting. A target date of Saturday, May 1st was set for painting the shed. There is also a garden workday set for May 1st. Dale moved and Kellan seconded to authorize a Board member to purchase paint and supplies as needed for the shed painting project.

Board Vacancy – Chuck reported that Pamela Been-Redecker has resigned from the Board and is unable to participate in the community garden this year. Susan and Dick shared names of prospective Board members to complete Pamela's term with Chuck. Chuck will follow-up with the suggestions.

The next Board meeting is Wednesday, May 5th at 5:45 p.m. at UFM. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Stearns, Recording Secretary