

**MADISON COMMUNITY GARDEN
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

January 16, 2019

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM.

Present: Mike Barrasso, Margaret Malishchak, Steve McAuliffe, Steve Stocker, Ursula Leonhardt, Maureen Hoeflin, Sondra Clark, Brian Monaghan, Charles Van Buskirk, Paul Schmitt, Kirk Moehle

Absent: Geoff Thomas, Maureen Byrne, Lynn Macagnano, Geoff Anderson

Open Meeting Statement

Mike read the Statement of the Open Public Meetings Act, as follows:

"In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting of the Madison Community Garden Advisory Committee was provided by transmitting a copy of the meeting notice to the Madison Eagle, Daily Record and Star Ledger, and posting copies of this notice on the bulletin board at the main entrance to the Hartley Dodge Memorial Building, on January 24, 2018. Copies of said notice were made available to members of the general public."

Roll Call

The roll call was taken.

Approval of Minutes/Agenda Review

There was a motion, a second and a unanimous vote to accept the November 14, 2018 Minutes as written. Margaret will provide these to the Borough Clerk. Mike noted that he added a discussion of Compost/Garden Waste Disposal to the Agenda.

Public Comments

None at this time.

Nomination and Election of Officers and Subcommittee Heads

Mike Barrasso said that although he has enjoyed his six years as Chair of the Garden Committee, he will step down for 2019 and he suggested that Steve McAuliffe succeed him, and Steve is

willing to do so. There were no other Committee members interested in assuming the Chair position. Mike said he would assume the role of Vice-Chair. Margaret Malishchak agreed to continue as Secretary. Geoff Anderson was not at the meeting but Mike will speak to him about continuing as Chair of the Communications Subcommittee. Lynn Macagnano has indicated to Mike that she will continue as Comptroller. Brian Monaghan agreed to continue as Chair of the Maintenance/Rules Subcommittee. Steve Stocker agreed to continue as Master Gardener. Steve McAuliffe agreed to continue as Chair of the Honeybees Subcommittee. There was a motion, a second, and a unanimous vote to have all of the noted individuals assume the noted positions, including Geoff Anderson if he is willing to continue to serve.

Mike noted that since Steve McAuliffe will now be filling the roles of both Garden Committee Chair and Honeybees Committee Head, we will need to develop a process so that Steve can get authorization for reimbursement for purchases he makes for the Bee Yard. Mike and Steve will talk with Linda in the Purchasing Department about this.

Reports

Comptroller – No report at this time.

Subcommittee Reports

Communications – No report at this time.

Maintenance/Rules – No report at this time.

Master Gardener – No report at this time.

Membership – Margaret noted she has been collecting renewal applications and there are currently 35-40 people who have not responded. Mike said a few people have sent emails to the Garden account indicating that they will be sending in their renewal applications. There are currently about 3-4 people on the Madison waiting list. Margaret said she will soon start calling individuals who have not yet responded, but suggested we first send out a more strongly-worded reminder to gardeners.

Honeybees – No report at this time.

Committee Meeting Schedule for 2019

Mike developed a proposed meeting schedule for 2018, as follows:

1/16/19
2/20/19
3/20/19
4/17/19
5/22/19
6/19/19

8/21/19
9/18/19
11/20/19
1/22/20 – Organizational meeting for 2020

There was a motion, a second, and a unanimous vote to adopt this meeting schedule for 2019.

Ongoing Business

Drainage Project – Steve M. reviewed the details of the proposal submitted previously by Cardinal Landscaping, whose bid was for about \$4,500. He has not had a chance to contact any other potential landscapers. There was some discussion about how each vendor's approach may be somewhat different and we should hear what alternatives exist. Steve said he will contact two other possible vendors for quotes.

Compost/Garden Waste Disposal – There was some discussion about how we need to find a more environmentally-friendly solution to garden waste disposal than to put it in the dumpster. Steve M. suggested we form a committee to look into possible solutions and report back to the Garden Advisory Committee. Charles Van Buskirk, Ursula Leonhardt, Maureen Hoeflin, Kirk Moehle and Paul Schmitt volunteered to be on this committee. Charles will serve as the committee head. They will present some preliminary ideas at the next Advisory Committee meeting. Brian noted that any in-Garden solutions would have to be able to accommodate the new tractor mower.

New Business

Promotion to Fill Plots –Margaret suggested we hold off on this until we have a better idea of how many open plots we have. Kirk Moehle suggested we start planning for our Garden kickoff meeting in April. Brian said he would present the results of last season's Garden Detectives program at the kickoff meeting, which seemed to be very well-received by gardeners.

Produce Donation Program - Steve S. reported he donated 978 pounds of produce from the hoop houses in 2018. Margaret said she will add this to the total from the plots, and thinks the grand total will be about 2,000 pounds. Mike noted that gardeners seem to really want to participate in the program when they hear these impressive results.

Projects for 2019- Steve S. noted that the area around the front gate gets really muddy, and proposed that we construct a concrete apron on the inside of the gate, and a sidewalk leading over to the plots. Mike suggested we create a task force to analyze this issue, and Mike, Kirk and Steve Stocker volunteered to be on this task force.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

