

**MADISON COMMUNITY GARDEN
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

January 22, 2020

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM.

Present: Steve McAuliffe, Mike Barrasso, Margaret Malishchak, Lynn Macagnano, Brian Monaghan, Steve Stocker, Ursula Leonhardt, Maureen Hoeflin

Absent: Geoff Thomas, Geoff Anderson, Maureen Byrne, Sondra Clark, Charles Van Buskirk, Paul Schmitt, Kirk Moehle

Open Meeting Statement

Steve M. 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 17, 2019. 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 20, 2019 Minutes as written. Margaret will provide these to the Borough Clerk. One item was added to the Agenda, a discussion about the all-gardener meeting in April.

Public Comments

None at this time.

Nomination and Election of Officers and Subcommittee Heads

All people currently serving as officers of the Madison Community Garden Advisory Committee have agreed to continue for 2020. There was a motion, a second, and a unanimous vote to have all current officers continue for 2020. All current subcommittee heads have agreed to serve for 2020. There was a motion, a second, and a unanimous vote to have all current subcommittee heads continue for 2020. There was some discussion about establishing a composting subcommittee. Charles Van Buskirk, Paul Schmitt and Kirk Moehle have been spearheading composting efforts but since none of them are present, we will table appointing people to serve on this committee until the next meeting.

2020 Meeting Schedule

Steve developed a proposed meeting schedule for 2020, as follows:

2/19/20

3/18/20

4/15/20

5/20/20

6/17/20

8/19/20

9/16/20

11/18/20

1/20/21 – Organizational meeting for 2021

There was a motion, a second, and a unanimous vote to adopt this meeting schedule for 2020.

Membership – Margaret noted we have 4 full plots and 4 half-plots available. There are still 7 current gardeners who have not replied whether they plan to renew, and Margaret will follow-up. There are 2 people on the Madison waiting lists, who have received plots, and 2 on the non-Madison waiting list who will receive plots after May 15 if any are available, and if they can be accommodated within the rule of not exceeding 10% of non-Madison gardeners.

Apiary – Steve M. said that he recently fed fondant to the bees. All hives are alive; 3 seem to be robust and 2 are in fair shape.

Ongoing Business

MRC Meadow Restoration – Steve M. said that the land has been completely cleared. He met today with Jared Rosenbaum, a horticulturalist, and confirmed that the plan is to first treat/eliminate invasive species in the spring and summer. Seeds and plants will be planted in the fall. Steve will look into the possibility of burning the site to prep it for planting, although it may be too late to do this.

Front Gate/Garden Entrance Upgrade – Mike said he, Kirk and Steve S. will do some further research on best methods for upgrading the garden entrance gate. Steve S. proposed that new upright pipes be installed to stabilize the front gate, and a wider door should be installed.

New Business

Repurpose of Shade Tree Nursery - Steve M. said that Master Gardeners and a few folks from the Garden Club have collected seeds from native pollinator plants, and planted 27 different species in the area where the Tree Nursery had been. Once the plants are big enough to be transplanted, we will invite gardeners to dig them up for use in their home gardens. We can

discuss ongoing plans for this area at a future meeting. Brian suggested perhaps we use it to let people plant sunflowers, rather than putting them in their plots where they sometimes shade the plots of adjacent gardeners.

April Garden Kickoff Meeting – There was some discussion about a good date to schedule this, and whether to again use the Madison Rescue Squad meeting room or to try to book the new Rose Hall. It was eventually decided we would finalize this at our next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.