

**MADISON COMMUNITY GARDEN
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 19, 2020
MINUTES**

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

Present: Steve McAuliffe, Mike Barrasso, Lynn Macagnano, Brian Monaghan, Ursula Leonhardt, Sondra Clark, Charles Van Buskirk, Geoff Anderson, Paul Schmitt

Absent: Geoff Thomas, Maureen Byrne, Kirk Moehle, Margaret Malishchak, Maureen Hoeflin, Steve Stocker

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 23,2020. 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 January 22, 2020 Minutes as written. Margaret will provide these to the Borough Clerk. One item was added to the Agenda, a discussion about the proposal from David Amieva, who is working on his Eagle Scout project.

Public Comments

David Amieva said he is working on an Eagle Scout project to benefit the community. He has several ideas about improvements that he could make at the Madison Community Garden, including building bat houses or upgrading the picnic area with new seating. Steve commented that we already have some bat houses, which were constructed as an Eagle Scout project several years ago. Ursula suggested possibly owl houses, and David said he will research this. Steve said committee members will discuss his proposal later in the meeting and get back to him.

Reports

Comptroller – Lynn reported that we had no expenses since the last meeting. Revenue was \$1740. Our current balance is about \$29,000.

Subcommittee Reports

Communications – Geoff reported he has been checking and responding to emails and that there have been some inquiries about plot availability.

Maintenance/Rules - Brian reported there have been no infractions in January or February. He wondered if anyone has a roller so he can roll the paths, which have heaved somewhat in the winter weather. Charlie and Paul both have rollers. There was some discussion. Brian said he will also check with the DPW.

Compost – Steve said we established a new compost subcommittee at our last meeting and that Paul, Charlie and Kirk have been working on compost projects. Steve said someone should volunteer to head the committee and Charlie said he would do so. The Boro has emptied the refuse bin along the Garden pathway. Charlie has been checking the compost bins and there has not been much activity since it has been cold. The bins are in need of “greens”, which will be provided by grass cuttings once the mowing season starts. He estimates that about half of one bin contains finished compost but it will need to be screened, and he suggested having screens available at each compost station. Paul suggested maybe the Eagle Scout project could be to build covers for the compost bins. There was some discussion about whether we should remove the compost to a pile that gardeners can take from, or should we let gardeners dig their compost out of the bins. It was agreed that a procedure should be developed before the April kickoff meeting, so we can inform gardeners of the policy at that time.

Master Gardener – No report at this time.

Membership – Steve said Margaret sent him an update that we have no half plots, and 6 full plots currently available. There are two on the non-Madison waiting list. We may consider running an article in the Madison Eagle to attract new gardeners if those 6 plots are not filled in the next few weeks.

Apiary – Steve M. said that all 5 coop hives are still alive, as well as most or all of the individual hives, however, March and April are usually tough for bees. He got a request from the person who runs the Madison Green Fair, which will be on April 25, asking if we want to have a table about the Bee Club. Steve agreed to work a table and will bring an observation hive. He also wants to create some posters. There was a motion, a second, and a unanimous vote to authorize \$100 for the creation of posters. He reported that 29 people have joined the Bee Club so far, as listed below:

Michael Barrasso, Rebecca Bertrand, Laura Buonocore, Blair Conley, Patricia Coyle, Chris Crabtree, Gene Cracovia, Tom and Ceil D’Alessio, Cecilia Dilzell, Cynthia Falco, Alexandre Gerber, Daphne Hanrahan, Senem and Boris Kalyoncu, Mary Ellen Kapalo, Joseph and Denise Katz, John Kennedy, Ursula Leonhardt, Arline Lloyd, Lynn and Tabitha Macagnano, Jennifer Marquardt, Steve McAuliffe, Kathy McGrath, Kirk Moehle, Brian Monaghan, Barbara Narus, Martin Rambusch, Tom Salaki, Charles Van Buskirk, James Van Dyke, Paul Vazquez, Doug and Nancy Willis, Bruce Tucker, Alexandra Tinari, Caroline Yorke

Ongoing Business

MRC Meadow Restoration – Steve M. said that there is nothing new to report on the meadow restoration. He is still trying to get estimates from contractors for eradicating invasive species.

Front Gate/Garden Entrance Upgrade – Mike said he got the names of 3 potential contractors from Linda Sawyer. We will need to get 3 bids per Boro contracting regulations. He is hoping to do that over the next month. He proposes that the sill and gate should be higher than they are now, and that the gate should be lockable and rabbit-proof. He will report further at a later meeting.

New Business

April Garden Kickoff Meeting – There was some discussion about a good date to schedule this, and it was decided to hold it on April 29. Margaret will check the availability of the room at the Madison Rescue Squad. Steve will re-work last year's Agenda and will add an item regarding the compost bins.

Eagle Scout Project – There was some discussion about upgrading the picnic area and/or building a kiosk or creating bird houses. It was eventually agreed that Steve will talk with David about whether he can upgrade the picnic area, to possibly include a fire pit, and also build a small entrance kiosk.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM.