

Manhattan Community Gardens
Minutes of July 9, 2014, Board Meeting

Present: Leila Maurmann, Kruger Bryant, Max Urick, John Drach, Linda Teener, Meagan Duever, Carol Barta and Jen Campbell.

Leila called the meeting to order at 5:34pm at the UFM meeting room. John made a motion to pass the previous month's board minutes, Max seconded, and the motion carried.

Linda gave the treasurer's report and it was discussed. She reported that there had been a donation to Big Poppi on behalf of Mark Jilka. Other expenses for the month were bills and the purchase of hay. John moved approval of the report, Carol seconded, and the motion carried.

This month's meeting time was dedicated to discussion of the sub-committee reports for the long range planning committee. There were five reports that had been submitted for consideration: fruit tree orchard, garden meeting area, solar driven water well/irrigation systems, infrastructure items, and garden management. The topics were briefly discussed before being put into a priority list.

Infrastructure items were put at the top of the list. A number of garden plots of the west side of the B sections at Collins Lane have standing water regularly after larger rains. A proposed ditch would provide a way to drain these plots more quickly. John Drach was tasked with a mission of acquiring a crew and a concrete plan in order to correct this repetitive problem and increase garden productivity for the effected plots.

The garden orchard project was seen as a huge stepping stone for the gardens. It was proposed that the orchard be a separate subproject under the Community Gardens at Collins Lane. Gardeners would buy into the orchard and provide a set number of hours to contribute to the planting, maintaining and harvesting of the fruit. The produce would be split equally among shareholders. Further information must be gathered before this project is set into motion including but not limited to the site and the capacity of the current well at Collins.

Garden management was seen as a necessary step in the near future if the gardens are to continue to grow. The proposed adjustments of this report include hiring a part time employee to support the garden so the Board may focus on more executive tasks, increasing plot rental fees, and develop a structured fundraising approach. It was the general consensus of the Board to table discussion of raising plot fees until further information is acquired.

The last two topics were discussed in details, however they will remain at the bottom of the list consideration until the first three topics are further investigated.

With all the topics having been discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm with a motion made by Max, Leila seconded, and the motion carried.