

**MADISON COMMUNITY GARDEN
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

August 21, 2019

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM.

Present: Brian Monaghan, Lynn Macagnano, Margaret Malishchak, Charles VanBuskirk, Maureen Hoeflin, Maureen Byrne, Kirk Moehle

Absent: Mike Barrasso, Geoff Thomas, Ursula Leonhardt, Steve Stocker, Paul Schmitt, Geoff Anderson, Steve McAuliffe, Sondra Clark

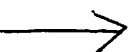
Open Meeting Statement

Brian 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 Minutes of the June 19, 2019 meeting which were recently circulated. Margaret will provide these Minutes to the Borough Clerk. There were no suggestions for changes to the Agenda.

Public Comments

No comments at this time.

Reports

Comptroller – Lynn reported that we had one expense for compost bin supplies. Revenue was one new Bee Club membership of \$30. Our current balance is \$25,471.

Subcommittee Reports

Communications – No report at this time.

Maintenance/Rules – Brian noted that we tarped a few weedy plots. He has also been weed whacking the paths and raking off remaining wood chips. He has mowed the new grass paths four times. He would like to rent an aerator and purchase grass seed so the paths can be seeded in the fall. They are mostly crabgrass at this point.

Master Gardener – Brian noted that all the potatoes from the demo plots have been harvested. The hay bale plantings were not too successful – this method is high maintenance and expensive since the bales need daily watering and addition of nitrogen.

Membership – Margaret said we have no available plots. There is one person on the non-Madison waiting list and one on the Madison waiting list. If a plot becomes available before the end of the year, our Rules say it should first be offered to the non-Madison gardener since we do not start accepting new Madison gardeners until after January 1. Margaret will check how many non-Madison gardeners we currently have so we do not exceed our 10% rule.

Apiary – Brian reported that Steve will be checking the hives to see if the Apivar strips were effective.

Ongoing Business

Compost/Garden Waste Disposal – Kirk has almost completed the three excellent three-bin compost systems which are being used by gardeners. Charlie noted he checked the oldest bin and it seems to be making good compost. He has a connection that can provide us manure and there was some discussion about whether we should add this to the compost bins. Maureen Byrne noted there are Council-level discussions underway about establishing a more extensive Borough-wide composting program. This may include composting fallen leaves as well as possibly appropriate household waste.

Front Gate/Garden Entrance Upgrade – No report at this time as Mike was not able to attend the meeting.

MRC Meadow Restoration – Brian noted our request to the Borough Council for funding was approved. Steve M. has met with several individuals about getting the project started. A lot of the callery pear trees have been removed.

New Business

Work Day – Brian said since we are no longer spreading chips, there may not be any reason to schedule a Work Day this year. He can handle the aeration and seeding of the paths.

Harvest Festival – After some discussion it was decided we will hold the annual Harvest Festival on September 29 from 1-3 PM. Brian will ask Steve to send a “save the date” notice to gardeners.

There being no further business, there was a motion, a second and a unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 PM.