

**Manhattan Community Garden Board
Minutes for January 6, 2010 Meeting.**

Members present: Don Benninga, Dick Green, Kellan Kershner, Chuck Marr, Susan Oviatt, Dale Stearns and Linda Teener.

Chuck called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. The Board members confirmed receipt of the agenda, minutes and directory that Chuck had attached to an email for the meeting. The December minutes were reviewed with no corrections noted. Kellan moved and Linda seconded for acceptance of the minutes. Motion carried. Linda presented the Treasurer's report with the 2010 budget. There was discussion on whether the amount budgeted for trash removal was sufficient. Periodic dumpster availability with announcements was suggested and should stay within the budget. Kellan moved and Dale seconded to accept the Treasurer's report and 2010 budget. Motion carried.

Chuck had several announcements. First, he indicated that plot 37 needs to be re-measured before assigning it. Second, the lock on the equipment shed is being changed. The lock combination will be shared with gardeners as they qualify by completing the equipment orientation. Third, equipment orientation sessions are being scheduled on Tuesday, February 16 at 5 p.m., Thursday, February 18 at 5 p.m. and Saturday, February 20 at 10 a.m. These sessions should precede gardeners' plans to do any tilling. Gardeners will need to complete the orientation to have access to use the equipment. The orientation sessions will be at the equipment shed and will be announced to gardeners via the paper newsletter and emails. Fourth, the spring clean-up workday originally scheduled for April 3 will be moved to Saturday, March 27. This will avoid conflict with the Easter holiday weekend. Gardeners signed up for the April 3 workday will be notified of the change. Fifth, the schedule for workdays for the 2010 season is as follows: May 1, June 5, July 10, August 7, September 11, October 2, and November 13. Please note that all the dates are Saturdays. The September and November dates were moved back one week rather than being the first Saturday to avoid conflicts with football weekends. The November 13 workday will be the fall clean up and will conclude with a gardener meeting. Sixth, the Manhattan Garden Show is scheduled February 27 & 28 at Cico Park. Volunteers are needed to work two-hour shifts at the Community Garden information table.

Dick gave an Equipment Committee report. He serviced two tillers and two chipper/mulchers with \$65 spent on maintenance costs. He will be servicing the rear tine tiller. The mowers are in poor condition with probable replacement needed.

There were no reports for the Ground Maintenance and Tilling or Flower Bed Maintenance Committees.

Kellen gave a Rules and Safety Committee report. He did a walk through of the gardens on Monday, January 4 and noted that there are two structures on gardener plots yet to be removed and he plans to follow-up on those. Otherwise the plots are in good shape for the winter. Kellen mentioned that two water hydrants appeared to be frozen. Chuck indicated that he will check into repair options. Chuck also mentioned that the Board should be conscious on possible snow removal needs on sidewalks along the gardens.

Don gave a Compost and Mulch Committee report. He is checking on hay and haulers in preparation for the spring season.

Chuck gave the Education and Newsletter Committee report. Jeanne Squires will be preparing the paper newsletter to be sent to gardeners in early February. Board members should forward announcements and articles to Jeanne for inclusion in the newsletter. Email news will begin in March.

Susan gave the Records Committee report. Susan is still conducting gardener sign-ups. The number of available plots is getting smaller with a high percentage of returning gardeners. She indicated that sign-up of gardeners to work on early season workdays is higher than late season workdays. The Board felt that should be fine. It was suggested that flowerbed maintenance be included as a workday task each month.

Chuck indicated that Garden Socials will be divided among Board members for coordination this year rather than having a Committee assignment for them.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. to set-up for gardener sign-up that followed the meeting. The next Board meeting will be February 3 at 5:45 p.m. at UFM.

Respectively submitted,

Dale Stearns, Recording Secretary