

**Manhattan Community Gardens Board
Minutes for Wednesday, February 3, 2010 Meeting.**

Members Present: Don Benninga, Dick Green, Chuck Marr, Susan Oviatt, Jeanne Squires-Lake, Dale Stearns, and Linda Teener. Guest: Erika Huber.

Chuck called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. and introduced Erika Huber, a graduate student in the Horticulture program at Kansas State University (KSU). Erika asked the Board members if she could do interviews with the officers for a research project she is conducting on non-profit organizations. The Board agreed and Erika will arrange individual interviews with Linda, Jeanne, Susan, Chuck, Dale, and Linda Bachelor. Chuck also mentioned that Erika might be able to coordinate the Garden Mentors program that will be discussed later in the meeting. Chuck also reported that the city shut off the water to the community gardens in response to the leaking hydrants. Arrangements to repair the hydrants will need to be made this spring.

Dale provided the Secretary's Report. The January 6th meeting minutes were approved by consensus with one correction noted for the spelling of Kellan's name.

The Treasurer's Report was provided by Linda and approved by consensus.

Chuck made the following announcements: The new gardener signup for February 13th at 10 AM at UFM will probably not be needed. It is anticipated that all the plots will be reserved by the conclusion of the new gardener signup immediately following the Board meeting. The Equipment Orientations are scheduled for Feb. 16 (Tues) 5 PM, Feb. 18 (5 PM) and Feb 20. (10 AM). The combination for the shed locks will be passed out to gardeners after completion of orientation. The Manhattan Garden Show will be Feb 27&28. Volunteers have signed up to staff the information table for 2-hour shifts on Saturday day and Sunday afternoon.

The following Committee reports were made:

Equipment- Dick Green stated that \$106 had been expended on equipment repairs. All the equipment has been serviced except the large rear-tine tiller. He recommends that the Board be prepared to replace a mower when one of the current mowers ceases to function. Dick estimated a \$100 repair would be needed for the string trimmer. There is a second string trimmer that currently functions so the repair to the first string trimmer is not recommended at this time. Chuck reminded the Board members that gasoline purchases made by the Board members for equipment could be reimbursed through Linda. Board members should help see that adequate gasoline supplies are available at the Community Gardens.

Ground Maintenance and Tilling: Pat Butler did not have a report. Chuck mentioned that people have been arranged to do the tilling for gardeners paying for the service.

There were no reports from the Flower Bed Maintenance and Rules and Safety Committees.

Compost and Mulch: Don Benninga reported that he has a hauler for the composted manure from the KSU Beef Barn. It was recommended to Don that the composted manure be hauled to the Community Gardens the first week of March with two dump locations.

Education and Newsletter: Chuck Marr and Jeanne Squires-Lake shared the draft copy of the paper newsletter. It will be mailed next week.

Records: Susan Oviatt shared a hardcopy of the gardeners' database. She plans to email an electronic copy to the Board. Susan plans to prepare lists of gardeners for inside the equipment shed to include volunteers for workdays.

The following Old Business items were discussed:

Garden social assignments were made and recorded by Susan. Each Board member chose a garden social month to coordinate.

The Garden Mentor program is an idea previously discussed to pair experienced gardeners who may need help with the physical work demands of gardening with inexperienced gardeners who seek knowledge about gardening practices. Erika Huber is willing to coordinate Garden Mentoring this year. The waiting list of gardeners who didn't receive a plot this year will be used as a source for inexperienced gardeners. Jeanne moved that Garden Mentoring be approved as a pilot program this year with Erika as coordinator. Don seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

There was one New Business item to be discussed:

Jeanne explained the use of Plot E1 for Horticulture Special Populations Group. Clients from Big Lakes Developmental Center in Manhattan use this raised bed garden plot for a continuing project in Horticulture Therapy. The Board supports the use of the plot.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. to set up for the new gardener registration to begin at 7:00 p.m. The next Board meeting will be March 3 at 5:45 p.m. at UFM.

Respectively submitted,

Dale Stearns, Recording Secretary