

## Menomonie Community Garden Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2019 6:30 PM – Leisure Center

Attending: Michelle B, Samantha K, Ben K, David C, Ruth M, Dennis W, Kathy W, Kathy C, Monika H, Lois W, Leda F, John L, Jeannette B, Barry B, Danielle C, Janet M, Vickie W, Willie M, Caitlin N, Carrie R, Rachel R. Judy Z, Mary L

### Old Business:

1. Willie reported: he spoke about where to (not) put the weeds and garden waste. He described what a **“water-emergency”** is when he should be called, which essentially is when a lot of water is being lost, otherwise, we should **just shut off the valve by the front gate** and let him know the issue – **prefers TEXTS, unless it’s an emergency**. He also said that the garden does not officially qualify as “organic” but we are as close to that as possible and strive for that, meaning we should be mindful of what we apply at the garden. OMRI are the ratings on products (such as fertilizers and sprays)
2. Mary reported: Two cherry trees have been replaced and also a new Wolf River apple tree was planted from the donation in memory of Jeannette’s son, there is still most of the donation left for another project-of-choice. Welcome suggestions from membership. Devin Corbin planted a new tree to replace what was lost.
3. The newer asparagus patch needs to “rest” before it is harvested. A yellow tape around the plot as a reminder not to pick there. The older patch can be harvested; with a total of 62 gardeners, we need to be mindful when we pick—not to take too much.
4. The round-barrel composter gotten with a grant, which composts in about six weeks- this composter is available to a gardener or 2 to use. It is an educational tool to help a person decide if buying their own composter is something they want to do. Gardeners can bring in their own barrel composter into their own garden. A unit like what the garden has cost about \$100
5. There are 2 plots in front of the beehives (#99 & #100) to grow produce to donate to Stepping Stones. Already planted are onion plants and potatoes; Judy is planting squash and sweet potatoes. Anyone care for these 2 plots and also donate seeds, plants, etc. Menomonie Market has a program where they encourage their staff to donate time, which could mean help in these plots or elsewhere.
6. Helen’s Monarch Project will continue; she will be tending to a second plot for flowers, plus continue tending the original plot where she planted perennial flowers that will need weeding once the perennials emerge. She plans to raise more Monarchs from larvae and eggs that she or others collect in the garden. A list of flowers that butterflies like was passed around. It will be put on the web site.
7. The chalk board is used to tell gardeners about jobs that need to be done, so check the board. When it rained hard on Saturday, all of her chalk-messages were washed off! The tilled-up area next to the orchard has been seeded so don’t walk on this area—Mary put up yellow flags to designate the “no trespass” area. We talked about problems associated with identification of plot-location for new gardeners and that sometimes there is planting in the wrong spot; when that does happen, we just need to work out a solution because it will happen occasionally.
8. Mary wanted to know how many were interested in the idea of a yard-sale in the parking lot. June 8<sup>th</sup> was the suggested date from 8:00 to Noon or 1:00 – one day only. We already have signs in the shed. Mary needs info of what people are selling by May 27<sup>th</sup> in order to list them on FB & elsewhere.

## **New Business:**

1. Long-range planning committee: Mary suggested that the committee needs to continue to meet in order to make any changes, additions. Previously, we talked about putting in permanent stakes, raised beds, more wheelbarrows, cutting trees. The same gardeners will meet again to update the policies. The date of the committee will be decided when Willie get back from vacation.

2. Mary reported there are 79 full plots now rented out of 94 possible. Income \$1,007.14 Expenditure \$163.94 (mostly insurance and sanitation of approx. \$500, donation to Fred Ochs for tilling \$100, seeds for orchard \$32. Motion made and seconded to approve projected sanitation expenses. Mary reported that next year will be the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the founding of the Community Garden, and would like to plan an Open House to celebrate our success and accomplishments. A planning committee will need to be formed and report back by Sept. in order to include in the next budget-year. Next month there will be a sign up for the committee.

3. Mary said Raspberry assignments can be requested after the meeting with five spots open.

4. Judy reported on colored/coated seeds that make it easier to see where they are planted and help in thinning. She also reported picking up some Cowsmos organic cow manure at Henderson's Landscaping, located on Hwy B north of I-94, where a 5-gallon bucket can be purchased for \$3 – you bring & fill your own buckets and can use buckets from the garden to transport, wear boots. Judy also reported on 2 plots that have asparagus growing where it needs to be removed, one which is underway. Because asparagus spreads and is really hard to dig up, that is the reason to prohibit it and only allow it in the community asparagus plots; members voted and approved to add a new rule: that asparagus is not allowed in gardeners' plots. Judy suggested that someone good at graphics create a map of all the plots with peoples' names on the plot-map, and Monika offered to do this—thank you! This will help us know our neighbors. She also suggested there be a requirement to attend meetings but after talking with several gardeners, she learned that many cannot attend meetings due to work, or other obligations. The intended emphasis on attendance is to know the latest news, rules, needs, etc. at the garden, which can instead, come thru minutes and talking to others at the garden, so no attendance-requirement was implemented. She reported that Scott had dropped off firewood by the fire-pit for anyone to use, and imagined about someday it would be fun to have a way to have brats, etc. handy (refrigerator?) to be grilled on impulse at the firepit—all of which is just a suggested idea for the future thought. She reported on her trip to the new Fleet Farm in Eau Claire (opened last Sept.) which is several times as big as the Menomonie FF & very well-stocked.

Motion to adjourn – meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

The next meeting will be at the Garden on June 11, 2019 at 6:30 PM

Recorded by: Judy Zimmerman