



Menomonie Community Garden Meeting

July 13, 2021

PLACE: Menomonie Community Garden

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE: Sign in sheet available

GUEST SPEAKERS: Pat and Mike Wright, Prairie Farm farmers and Stepping Stone co-warehouse managers came to our meeting to see if we would be interested in partnering with Stepping Stones in a grant they received from the Mayo Health Care System "Farmers Feed Dunn County." They asked if we could help provide produce on Friday's to help feed 40 to 50 households. They have a refrigerated truck with which to pick up produce or they would be able to provide containers for produce delivery to Stepping Stones. Produce would be accepted at Stepping Stone's before their client distribution times which are as follows:

Monday 9 A.M to 11A.M. 1P.M to 5 P.M.

Wednesday 9 A.M to 3P.M.

Thursday 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Friday 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. and 4:30 to 5 P.M.

Any questions can be referred to them at Stepping Stone's telephone number: 715-235-2920 or Patty can be reached directly at 715-455-1319. It is okay to drop off just a bag of veggies for example. And some veggies are more needed than others. A fair number of tomatoes are usually donated, while shoppers request other veggies such as carrots and green beans.

Sara volunteered to designate one day per week when she would make herself available to deliver donated items left in designated container at the garden to Stepping Stones.

#### MEETING AGENDA:

Willie is working to get sunshade's springs damaged in previous storm repaired and shade reinstalled as quickly as possible. He reported that our new water system is working well. There is a leak ( crack) on end of the line. All gardeners should be aware of how to reach Willie if a major problem with water system happens. His contact info is on list in our garden shed.

Judy asks gardeners to be sure they are turning water off at spickets and not just stopping water from flowing by use of the nozzle regulator.

There have also been two bluebird fledglings so far this summer.

Also, plot N 39 is available at no cost. Please let Judy know if you wish to use it.

Patrick has taken charge of an abandoned plot.

Cindy reported that volunteers have been watering, weeding and helping care for the Community Sharing Plot. Cucumbers have been donated already. Cindy will be glad to

pick up donations of food at the garden or delivery can be made to the "Purple Door Church". Maybe we could share recipies on Facebook.

Garden mysteries. Vicky has noticed that one of her cabbages was "moved." Most gardeners think the culprit was a gopher. There are many gopher mounds in the garden area. Question was asked if gopher traps were available. Sara found two of her peppers went missing. Willie felt that culprit was probably a chipmunk.

GRANT details: whole parking area would be landscaped. Eight new raised garden beds, half of which would be 20 inches tall and the remaining half would be thirty inches tall. Two of the old garden beds which are 36 inches in height would remain. There would also be added space at raised garden site to accommodate wheelchair accessibility. The beds would be filled with new soil and replaced soil would be placed in plots that are in need of help.

The LONG RANGE PLANNING MEETINGS have been postponed due to time needed to prepare Con Agra Grant. Also, Fleet Farm might be willing to help us with our long range garden improvements. Fleet Farm recently donated a very generous supply of transplants of such items as cabbages, Brussels sprouts. Onions and many varieties of pepper transplants. A thank you goes out to Willie, Jody and Judy for receiving the items and "talking up " our garden. Jody sent them a very appreciative thank you note.

Menomonie Community Gardens has been asked by Stepping Stones to be one of highlighted gardens in their annual garden tour. They will be making a video of MCG on Thursday, July 22. Stepping Stones is providing their own volunteers for "live" tour on July 24. Mary S. and Kris F. are on garden tour committee. Anyone who desires to help with project is welcome to do so.

WATER COSTS: The 2020 garden season water was turned on earlier than this year's water turn on so it might be difficult to compare water usage. We are experiencing a water drought this year and we all try to minimize our water usage, but the fact remains our gardens do have to be watered to produce good produce. Burstad Insurance has recently donated \$266 to MCG and we could apply this donation to help pay this year's water bills.

ANNUAL PICNIC Is tentatively planned to be held on Tuesday August 17, with a rain date of Wednesday, August 18. Plans are to invite members of our city council and other city administrators to the picnic so we can open up better communication with these folks and show them what MCG is all about. Rodney, our Con Agra Grant facilitator will also be invited. A committee is being formed to plan for this event. Jeanne H., Jody, Kathy and Sheryl have volunteered to help arrange picnic. Anyone else wanting to help out in this event is VERY WELCOME. David Challe will not be able to demonstrate stir frying fresh vegetables at the picnic, but will postpone his demonstration possibly until early September.

**NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:** Our non-discrimination clause found in our mission statement must be amended to include exact wording preferred by Con Agra. If exact wording found in their sample is not used, our Grant will not be accepted for consideration. Kris F. made a motion to amend our non-discrimination statement to comply with Con Agra's acceptable statement. The motion was seconded by David Challe and was approved by our membership.

**REVIEWING MCG BY-LAWS:** By-laws will be reviewed by MCG BOARD, then presented to garden members at August monthly meeting. The board would like to see more gardeners on the board. We hope to get people interested in garden plans because our gardeners have great ideas.

"Kiss the Ground" Documentary, highly recommended, will be aired at the Heritage Museum in MENOMONIE at no cost to the public. The free viewing will take place on July 21, starting at 6P.M. and ending around eight o'clock at the museum. Otherwise it can be viewed on Netflix.

The meeting was then adjourned.  
Respectfully submitted by S. Grant.