

**CITY OF DEXTER  
FARMERS MARKET AND COMMUNITY GARDEN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015**

The regular meeting of the City of Dexter Farmers Market and Community Garden Oversight Commission was called to order at 5:37 pm at the City Offices, 8123 Main Street.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Carol Jones, Jeff Peters, Julie Knight, Martin Ruhlig, and Mary-Ellen Miller

**Absent:** Qualia Pant, Mark Olexa

Other Present: Brenda Tuscano, Farmers Market Manager; Justin Breyer, Assistant to the City Manager; Olga Austin, Community Garden Manager

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – OCTOBER 20, 2015**

Motion by Knight, Seconded by Jones to approve the minutes from October 20, 2015.

Motion Adopted

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion by Ruhlig, Seconded by Jones to approve the agenda as presented, with the following changes:

- Move agenda item 8 - Community Garden Business, to item 6.

Motion Adopted

**CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION**

None

**COMMUNITY GARDEN BUSINESS**

Olga Austin from the Community Garden presented their end of year report. She reported that it was a good year, and only one bed was remained unsold at the end of the year. Regarding a question about the raised beds, Mrs. Austin reported that the Eagle Scouts built eight raised beds. She also reported that the new fence held-up well, but the Garden has always had issues with deer eating plants.

The Committee discussed inviting the Master Gardener program to the Farmer's Market in early June for a joint program with the Community Garden. Brenda Tuscano reported that the plant sale is usually the third weekend in May.

**VENDOR REPORT**

Martin Ruhlig reported that he was down at both markets (Dexter and Chelsea) by approximately the same amount. Jeff Peters reported that the price of the average sale was up this year, but that the total volume sold was down. Vendors discussed the possible reasons why

vendor sales were down, which included weather and the resulting lower customer turnout. Mr. Ruhlig stated that the season started off slowly and that every year is different.

## **STAFF REPORT**

Brenda Tuscano reported that staff placed two ads with the Sun Times, which were high quality ads. She also reported that 25 kids attended the costume contest, and more than 16 people attended the dog dress-up event. She stated that she would like to do more Facebook advertising, and would like to meet with Wendy Wood of the Sun Times to do more advertising for next season.

Mrs. Tuscano reported that she and Justin Breyer will be meeting with Gordon Darr in the next few weeks to begin working on a schedule for next season.

Mrs. Tuscano reported that she spoke with Mary Ann Simpkins to see if she would help with the Market every other Saturday. She stated that she would consider waiving Mary Ann's vendor fees for her help.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None

### **A. DISCUSSION OF : ADVERTISING IDEAS**

Discussed under Vendor Report.

### **B. DISCUSSION OF: FARMERS MARKET BUDGET**

Briefly discussed under Vendor Report.

### **C. DISCUSSION OF: PLANNING FOR NEXT SEASON**

None

## **CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Move Jones, support Olexa to adjourn at 6:30 pm  
Motion Carried