

**CITY OF DEXTER**  
**FARMERS MARKET & COMMUNITY GARDEN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING**  
*Tuesday, November 17, 2015 @ 5:30 PM*  
Location: City Offices, 8123 Main Street  
PNC Bank, Second Floor – Enter at rear door

**A G E N D A**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ROLL CALL**  
Carol Jones  
Martin Ruhlig  
Jeffrey Peters  
Quaila Pant  
  
Mary Ellen Miller  
Mark Olexa  
Julie Knight – Ex Officio
3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – October 20, 2015**
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
5. **CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE**
6. **VENDOR REPORT**
7. **STAFF REPORT**
8. **COMMUNITY GARDEN BUSINESS**
9. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. Discussion of: Advertising Ideas
  - B. Discussion of: Vendors Assisting with Market Duties
  - C. Planning for Next Season
10. **OLD BUSINESS**  
  
None
11. **CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE**
12. **ADJOURNMENT**

**CITY OF DEXTER  
FARMERS MARKET AND COMMUNITY GARDEN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2015**

The regular meeting of the City of Dexter Farmers Market and Community Garden Oversight Commission was called to order at 5:31 pm at the City Offices, 8123 Main Street.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Carol Jones, Jeff Peters, Julie Knight, Martin Ruhlig, and Mark Olexa

**Absent:** Qualia Pant, Mary-Ellen Miller

Other Present: Brenda Tuscano, Farmers Market Manager; Justin Breyer, Assistant to the City Manager.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – JUNE 17, 2015**

Motion by Knight, Seconded by Martin to approve the minutes from June 17, 2015.

Motion Adopted

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion by Ruhlig, Seconded by Jones to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion Adopted

**CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION**

None

**VENDOR REPORT**

Martin Ruhlig reported that the Market was decent this year. Jeff Peters followed up that to date, he sold a few hundred dollars less than previous years, but there were several weeks of hard rain that put a damper on the Market. He also reported that Chelsea was experiencing the same issue.

**STAFF REPORT**

Brenda Tuscano reported that music slowed down towards the end of the season because Gordon Darr was substitute teaching for a teacher at Dexter Schools. She also reported that the Market received a free ad in the Sun Times. It was a high quality ad with great pictures. According to reports, the Sun Times distribution is increasing in Chelsea and Pinckney. Brenda also stated that hopefully there would be more cooking demonstrations at the Market next year, and hopefully the Market will have a good turnout for the Dress-Up Your Dog contest.

**COMMUNITY GARDEN BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None

### **A. DISCUSSION OF : HIRING A SUMMER INTERN**

Brenda Tuscano presented the concept of hiring a summer intern or providing room for someone to fill-in for her 2 Saturdays per month during the Market season. Brenda reported that she had communicated with Mary Ann about the concept. Jeff Peters stated that Brenda should look into formally asking the vendors to share the responsibilities of Market Manager. The Committee was generally receptive to the seasonal vendors sharing the responsibilities of Market Manager.

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

Brenda Tuscano led discussion about the Farmers Market Budget. Discussion included increasing the vendor fees by \$10, doing something to continue offering the EBT program, and finding some way to screen the vendors from the sun, which included the discussion of setting-up a white picket fence to also block cars. The Committee then discussed their approval of painting the Farmers Market wrought iron signage. Staff reported that the item had not yet been in front of City Council, but the goal would be to paint in the spring when the snow thaws.

The Commission discussed sending the vendor policy to the MMRMA/City Attorney. Brenda reported that some vendors may not be invited back next year for setting-up late. Brenda also requested ideas for the vendor dinner.

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

The Committee gave consensus to have a November meeting, not meet in December, then meet again in January.

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

None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Move Jones, support Olexa to adjourn at 6:26 pm  
Motion Carried



CITY OF DEXTER  
FARMERS MARKET AND COMMUNITY GARDEN  
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

8140 Main Street • Dexter, Michigan 48130-1092 • (734) 426-8303 • Fax (734) 426-5614 • [www.Dextermi.gov](http://www.Dextermi.gov)

---

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Farmers Market and Community Garden Oversight Committee  
FROM: Brenda Tuscano, Market Manager  
RE: REPORT  
DATE: November 17, 2015

---

**Advertising:** 2 ads were placed in the Sun Time for the last two events held at the Farmers Market and we had a great turnout for those events. I will be meeting with the Sun Times representative for setting up a regular advertising schedule for 2016.

**2016 Help with Market Manager Duties:** I have asked Maryann Simpkins to assist me in 2016 with Market Manager responsibilities. She has prior experience with the operations of a Farmers Market. This means she will be there to place new vendors and to assist with any issues that may arise at the market when I am not present. I will still be reachable on my cell phone if anyone needs to talk with me. I will be at the market every other week on Saturday's and will also continue to work in the office performing my normal responsibilities that I have done in the past, i.e. advertising, vendor recruitment, music and various other duties.

**Market Upgrades:** Next week Justin and I will meet with Kurt Augustine from the DPW to discuss placing eye-hooks in the concrete next year to secure sun screens for the market. We had hoped to meet over the last few weeks but because the weather took a down turn and the leaves all fell at one time it made it impossible to get together.

Please feel free to contact me prior to the meeting with any questions, etc.

Thank you.

# City of Dexter Community Garden

2015 Season



## Getting the garden growing

Garden applications were available from the late winter until spring through links on the City of Dexter website. To promote the gardening program, a variety of resources were used to reach as many area residents as possible. In early March, a number of flyers were placed on the information boards throughout the village. Flyers were also placed with several local businesses.

As in previous years, City of Dexter residents had first priority over non-residents in applying for plots and returning gardeners were allowed to request the same plots as they had used in previous season.

After receiving confirmation of their plot applications, plots were assigned and gardeners were invited to participate in the Spring Work Party.



## City of Dexter Community Garden 2015

After a warm and dry spring, plowing and staking out of the garden was completed at the end of April. On Saturday the 9th of May, a nice large group of gardeners turned out for the Spring Work Party!

At this party, mulch was spread in the main pathway, weed barrier cloth was put down along the perimeter of the garden and gardeners had a great opportunity to meet their gardening neighbors and start planting.

Department of Public Works worked on replacing the fencing and provided additional tools and equipment to make the work much easier for the gardeners.



## Exciting improvements

Dexter Community Garden continues to improve. A weed barrier cloth was laid down along the perimeter of the garden to keep the weeds out of the plots.

Dexter Department of Public Works purchased and installed a much more durable fencing. It will cut down on some annual set up work and provides clean, cared for look to the garden.

Last fall Boy Scouts Eagle Project built 4 more raised beds. This spring the beds were filled in with soil and gardeners grew some amazing crops!



## Urban Pollinator study

This year Dexter Community Garden continued participating in an Urban Pollinator study led by a group of graduate students from the University of Michigan.

The study is centered around native pollinators and how urban gardens possibly affect their survival.

Gardeners welcomed researchers into their plots and hosted temperature recording toggles and insect traps throughout the season.

The results of the study will be shared with the garden community at a later date.



## Season in pictures



## End of the season

The garden clean up party was held on the 10th of October. Gardeners removed the entrance gates and brought in the north and south sections of the fence. The garden was also tidied up in preparation for the fall tilling. Majority of gardeners opted to clean up their plots ahead of time as fall weekends are busy with events.



## Community Garden Survey Results

*All gardeners were asked to participate in the Community Garden End-of-Season Survey. Not all gardeners responded to the survey, and not all of those responding answered all the questions.*

**Number of garden plots:** 16 full plots (or 32 half plots) and 8 raised beds

**Number of primary gardeners:** 21

**Number of surveys received:** 13

*The answers below represent combined totals and are based upon the best estimates of responding gardeners, extrapolated out to cover all the garden plots.*

**Total number of people who gardened with the Community Garden this season:** 64 among respondents, total likely nearer 120

### **What did you grow on your plot?**

Popcorn, zucchini, peas, sweet corn, potatoes, green beans, cabbage, kale, brussels sprouts, basil, dill, sweet peppers, hot peppers, marigolds, cosmos, yellow squash, turnips, spinach, eggplant, watermelon, honey rock melons, carrots, sunflower, pumpkins, cucumbers, beets, radishes, lettuce, onions, tomatillos, horseradish, and butternut squash!

**How much would you say you have harvested from your plot this season?** 850+ lbs

(Note: Many gardeners responded to this question with answers such as “2 shopping bags’ full” or “25 ears of corn”.)

**How much have you shared with others?** 200+ lbs

**How many people did you share your produce with?** 90 among respondents, total likely well over 120

When gardeners were asked why did they decide to take part in Community Garden

- over 75% were interested in growing food
- almost 70% enjoy gardening
- 38% were looking to lower stress
- over 30% wanted to spend more time with children

When asked how often did they garden on their plots throughout the season:

- over 61% did so 2-3 times a week
- over 30% gardened once a week