

Compost Committee Meeting Minutes - Zoom Meeting Mar 31, 2021 at 10am

The meeting began promptly at 10am. Jack Morris introduced himself as committee co-chair and then introduced Craig Hahn as co-chair. Craig took the lead on introducing new members with the help of Mary Jane. We then proceeded with the following agenda items:

1. Goals: Jack briefly explained the goals of the committee and mentioned that they were to be reviewed by members who are welcome to provide feedback on additions or changes.
2. Community Garden Sites: We then introduced Mark Shiffler to discuss future cooperation with some of the 10 Community Crops sites across the city. He explained that many of these volunteer garden sites are used by recent immigrant families to grow crops for their own use during the summer. Most have compost bins and several have indicated an interest in having MGs present an educational demonstration on composting. Mark indicated that he would get a list of the existing gardens and send the MG compost committee members the locations. I suggested that we might be able to get committee members to establish teams of 3-4 that could visit specific sites that indicated an interest a few times during the growing season to help setup a composting program for the site. Mark also indicated that many of the participants would require some language translation assistance. Gary Wells asked about the possibility of having Neb Guides in different languages. Sarah replied that this would require considerable development but might be possible – we would need a list of languages needed and the document(s) to be translated.
3. Pioneer Park demonstrations: Jack Morris provided an outline of how members can contribute to the Pioneer Park demonstrations. A discussion followed on setting dates for the upcoming season. We selected the following dates: AUGUST 21; SEPTEMBER 4 & OCTOBER 23. The demonstrations will be held on Saturday morning from 10-noon. We will be recruiting member participation for these dates for the following responsibilities: i) Give part of the presentation ii) as a greeter/assistant, iii) help with setup (arrive earlier) iv) Pickup and return of demo materials.

It was suggested (by Craig?) that we conduct two member only sample demonstrations in July to orient new members on the process. Demo #1 would be conducted at Pioneer Park on either Saturday July 10 or 17, we will go with the date that best suits the majority of members. Demo #2 would be conducted at the MG gardener Training Center on either Friday July 23 or 30. I have attached a copy of the outline of the presentation I have used the past. Sarah's Powerpoint presentation can be reviewed at <https://go.unl.edu/compost>.

4. Advertising Sub-committee: Craig Hahn took the lead on improving public awareness of our training efforts. We formed an advertising sub-committee to address improving publicity, this is a copy of what was proposed: *The Advertising sub committee of Barb Clement, Mark Shiffler, and Susan Hutchinson were present. It was proposed that the 2019 brochure be updated and copies made available for all committee members to distribute in early May before the first demo at Pioneers Park. Many suggestions were made including posting brochures at the following locations: Farmers Market events, Jaz in June, Libraries, Ace hardware, Earl May, Campbells, Whole Foods, Sunken Gardens, grocery stores etc... perhaps we can leave it up to the innovativeness of our committee members.*

Some member suggestions from this years discussion included developing some digital advertising (Nathan Francis) and setting up a Facebook page (Stephanie Norton and Mary Ann Humphery). Eve

indicated concern about posting irrelevant content and not having members of the general public save non research-based information. Sarah told the group that a Facebook page controls can be set to not allow information to be posted from the general public. Sarah also said that if there are at least two Master Gardeners who would be willing to lead the efforts for a MG Facebook page – by creating content, making sure content is reviewed before posting and updating content on a regular basis – then we could investigate the possibility of creating such a page. This Facebook MG group would work with input from Mary Jane and Sarah.

5. Alternate demonstration sites and youth activities:

We briefly discussed expanding the program to sites at LPS Schools somewhat like we have done in the past. There were some ideas but it was generally agreed that we would not engage in school demos this year.

Gary Wells described how compost committee members have been closely associated with Youth Committee activities in previous years by Staffing compost education booths. He indicated that events such as the LPS Science Fair, Earth Wellness festival and Earth Day event have not as yet been scheduled.

6. Participation in Composting Tours: We have organized educational tours of commercial composting facilities in the past for the benefit of our committee members. Last year Heidi Novotny was going to organize a tour of the composting operation at the Wildlife Safari Park south of Ashland. It did not happen but she indicated she would enquire about doing the tour this summer. We have also visited Prairieland Dairy in the past, Jack indicated he would check out that possibility for this year. A visit to the Big Red Worm facility was suggested but given their current operational difficulties I think it best to skip that this year.

Some additional suggestions discussed included setting up a booth at the Farmers Markets (Barb Clement) or establishing a compost site at the Backyard Farmer garden. Mary Jane indicated she would check this out. *She did and they have campus MGs tending their compost area.*

The meeting concluded at 11:25am. A summary of proposed action items follows:

1. **Action item:** Mark will get us a list of interested Community Garden sites to distribute to members to recruit volunteers.
2. **Action Item:** Sarah indicated that they would setup an online poll/signup sheet for the following
 1. Participation in MG training demos, select dates at Pioneer Park on either Saturday July 10 or 17 and the MG gardener Training Center on either Friday July 23 or 30.
 2. Participation in the 3 Pioneer park demos on AUGUST 21; SEPTEMBER 4 & OCTOBER 23.
 3. Participation on Community Garden teams.
 4. Interest in attending tours of the Wildlife Safari Park or Prairieland Dairy.