

**Friends of CUE Board Meeting
Minutes for September 12, 2007**

Attendees (8): Lori Anderson, Barbara Bliss, Susan Diesel, Susan Nelson, Julie Ollila, Joyce Vincent, Pamela Silver, Pat Gill

Excused Absences (6): Stephanie Boraas, Stephanie Brody, Meleah Maynard, Gayle Gallagher, John Uban, Phill Lindsay

Unexcused Absence (1): Cheryllyne Vaz

Consulting Staff Attending: Kristen Denzer, Program Manager; Mike Mesch, Workshop Coordinator

Attachments to these Minutes include:

The Friends of CUE Board meeting convened at 4:00 p.m. and closed at 7:00 p.m.

- 1) A Social Period was held.
- 2) July 11th Meeting Minutes were approved as amended. Susan Diesel moved that the minutes be approved, Pam Silver seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 3) There were no changes to the agenda. Julie Ollila moved that the agenda be approved, Pam Silver seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 4) CUE and Metro Blooms Board Member Status Update. On August 17th the Minneapolis City Council approved the slate of MB board members to the Committee on Urban Environment. The oaths for committee members were distributed, and Kristen Denzer will be mailing oaths to those who were absent. Kristen Denzer, Joyce Vincent, and Lori Anderson will be working on updating the articles of incorporation and bylaws for Friends of CUE.
- 5) Board Member Responsibilities. The updated Board Member Responsibilities were distributed and signed.
- 6) Rain Garden Workshop Update for 2008. Metro Blooms has signed a contract with St. Louis Park for workshops, and will be signing contracts with Washington Conservation District and Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed soon. Kristen Denzer has met with Eagan, Brooklyn Park, St. Anthony Village, and many more to discuss partnering with them for programming.
- 7) Employee Status Changes. The Board discussed the recommendation that our present independent contractors be classified as employees, starting October 1. Julie Ollila moved this change, Pat seconded, the motion passed. It was also discussed whether they should be reimbursed for the Metro Blooms employer portion of FICA taxes for January 1-September 30, 2007. Susan Diesel moved that they be reimbursed for these taxes, Julie Ollila seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 8) Appreciation Party for Volunteers and Staff Update. The appreciation party will take place Friday, September 14th from 5:30pm-8:30pm at Susan Diesel's house, 3700 Pleasant Ave., Mpls. Dinner will be at 6:30pm and awards at 7pm. The food is all ordered and 43 people have rsvp'd.
- 9) Garden Evaluation Program Report. Pat Gill announced that the Best Residential Garden has been selected; 909 Kenwood Parkway. Lori Anderson will be judging the last few gardens. Pictures of the proposed Nate Siegel Award winner were passed around.
- 10) Alliance for Sustainability Conference Update. The main person planning the conference would like us to take ownership for a track, the "Gardening and Greening" track. They also would like us to present on rain gardens and fundraise for the conference. Susan Diesel will be checking on what exactly our involvement will be, and whether the conference is free. The tentative date for the conference is February 23rd.
- 11) Board Fundraising and Service. The menu of fundraising and service opportunities for Board Members was reviewed. Kristen Denzer will make edits and will send out. The board members reviewed lists for prospective donors and identified those they know so we can send a personalized fundraising letter. Meleah drafted the fundraising letter.

The Friends of CUE Board meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Denzer, Program Manager