

**Schuylkill River Park Community Garden  
Steering Committee Meeting  
Markward Recreation Center  
April 2, 2008**

**Present:**

Nicolas King, Chair (H-7)  
Linda Zaimis, Recording Secretary (B-4)  
Hal Lehman, Treasurer (C-3)  
Selwa Baroody (E-4)  
Derek Freres (A-1)  
Joyce Frye (H-6)  
Chris Henningsen (F-3)  
Seth Levi (J-7)  
Robert Reisley (D-1)  
Doug Ross (H-6)  
Amy Shain (D-5)  
Gerri Spilka (B-3)  
George Trotman (B-4)

**Not Present:**

Al Kelman (J-6)  
Bonnie Schmelz (J-1)

The meeting was called to order by Nicolas King at 7:05 p.m.

Nicolas introduced the **new** members of the Steering Committee: Chris Henningsen, Seth Levi, Robert Reisley, Bonnie Schmelz, Amy Shain, Gerri Spilka, and the **returning** members: Selwa Baroody, Derek Freres, Joyce Frye and Doug Ross, Al Kelman, Hal Lehman, and Linda Zaimis and George Trotman.

Doug Ross made a motion to accept Derek Freres as co-chairman of the Steering Committee. It was seconded and approved.

Nicolas appointed sub-committees as follows:

- Nominations – Amy Shain
- Rules – Al Kelman
- Facility – George Trotman, Linda Zaimis, and Chris Henningsen
- Waiting List – Linda Zaimis, Joyce Frye and Gerri Spilka
- Parkside Planting – Selwa Baroody and Allison Rulon-Miller

Discussion of the Ladybug Party led to a motion by Ted Reed to open the party to the public, with no publicity, no cap on attendance and with all children to be supervised at all times by their parent(s). Seconded and approved.

George Trotman gave the Facility Report. The water was turned on at the garden on Monday, March 31. The plumber recommended replacing the valve to the cistern at a cost of \$360. George made a motion to authorize the plumber to proceed. Seconded and approved.

Hal Lehman reported that CCRA has a page on its website for the garden. An announcement of the workday will go on the website. The waiting list is supposed to go on it also, but privacy issues need to be resolved.

Amy Shain nominated William Harger to be a member of the Steering Committee. Doug Ross made a motion to invite Mr. Harger to the next Steering Committee meeting so we can meet him. Seconded and approved.

Nicolas King wants to establish a Saturday Workshop open to the community to help counter the perceived opinion of some people that garden is elitist. Seth Levi will lead this project.

The Trinity Church School has asked if the children can participate in the garden. Nicolas King will work with them with a focus on the community herb garden.

Derek Freres announced that he established a centralized e-mail address that contains the addresses of all members of the Steering Committee. By using the centralized address, all members will receive copies of the e-mail. The centralized address is [Steering@SRPGC.org](mailto:Steering@SRPGC.org).

Grievance of Gerri Spilka, Inga Saffron and Elizabeth Savage dated February 10, 2008 – discussion regarding the waiting list, 10' X 20' plots, and competitive gardening led to a motion by Doug Ross that reviewing the rules of garden maintenance and removal of gardeners to be referred to the Rules Subcommittee for resolution with input from all parties and the final process to be published to all gardeners. Seconded and approved.

A project will be taken up by the Steering Committee to find a safe way to communicate with gardeners who are neglecting their plot.

Derek Freres made a motion to create a Grievances/Complaints Subcommittee to hear the issues. The subcommittee will work closely with the Rules Subcommittee. Seconded and approved.

Following discussion of the March 14 grievance of Elizabeth Savage regarding 2008 assignments of plots, Derek Freres made a motion to have it referred to the Grievances/Complaints Subcommittee. Gerri Spilka volunteered to be included in the subcommittee. Seconded and approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Linda Zaimis,  
Recording Secretary