

Schuylkill River Park Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Markward Recreation Center

Wednesday, April 1, 2015 6:30- 8:00 PM

Minutes Submitted by: Nicole Gortian, Secretary

Present: Maja Bucan/Scott Poethig (I-1), Carol Eaton (E-7), Jane Epstein (G-3), Lois Evans (Chair) (E-6), Nicole Gortian (J-6), Christine Guiliano (G-2), Tom McKeon (D-4), Jim Wells (J-7), Linda Zaimis (K-5),

Not Present: Wayne Rosenberger (Treasurer) (E-5), Michele Langer/Alan Cohen (C-7)

Recorded by Nicole Gortian, Secretary.

| Agenda Item | Discussion | Action/Responsible Party/ Timeline |
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| Call to order & Approval of Minutes | Minutes of the March 4 (Linda Zaimis moved approval, seconded by Scott Poethig) and March 26 SC Meetings (Carol Eaton moved approval, seconded by Christine Guiliano) were discussed. Motions were unanimously approved for both. Draft minutes of the Annual Meeting of March 26 were reviewed with no recommendations other than confirming the name of the person who seconded one of the motions. | Nicole Gortian will post on website and garden BB & notify gardeners. Given the useful information contained in the Annual Meeting Minutes, the SC agreed to make them available to Gardeners now in DRAFT form rather than wait until next year's Annual Meeting. Nicole will make the one addition and post them on the web as DRAFT. |
| Re-Introduction of Members, Distribution of Notebooks | New members Tom McKeon and Jane Epstein were introduced. | Lois gave updated SC notebooks to the new members and distributed new inserts to returning members. Linda needs a notebook; Lois will provide. |
| Treasurer's Report & Discussion of Revised Categories | Lois Evans presented the March budget report for Wayne Rosenberger. Motion to approve the report was made by Jim Wells and seconded by Carol Eaton. Motion was unanimously approved. | |
| Chair Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of Leases: All leases and payments are in. • Annual Meeting Attendance: 55 people • Volunteers: Several people signed up at the annual meeting for helping out with tending roses and herbs and children's activities, and several current or former gardeners were recommended for interview for the oral history project . • Meeting with CCRA. Lois met with Steve Huntington & Jeff Braff to discuss provisions of the Memorandum of Agreement [MA] with the City/Park Service. CCRA has now sent a copy as requested to the Farm Philly Program in the Department of Parks and Recreation which is mounting a Community Garden Network and wanted to | Lois Evans to invite Elisa Esposito, Parks & Recreation, to visit the garden. Lois & Wayne will meet with CCRA Treasurer to review our experience with the new budgetary Fiscal Year. |

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| | <p>potentially use our MA as a model. Lacking any mention of an annual fee in the MA, CCRA will not continue to send the \$1.00 'token' check at this time. There was agreement to continue the practice of using CCRA's boundaries as an inclusion criteria for the public plot lottery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of Mushroom Compost Delivery: Compost was delivered April 1 and available, first to new garden plot owners and then rest of gardeners, on April 5th. • Water Service: Water service was turned on today (4/1). A word of caution from our plumber: When turning on and off the water for the cistern, do take care to move the lever slowly as rapid opening/closure sends tremendous vibrations throughout the underground pipe system risking a rupture in this old plumbing. • CSX weed prevention: Lois has emailed our contact at CSX that mid- April would be an appropriate time for spring weed abatement. | <p>Lois will check with Hillside Nursery re: contents of the compost.</p> <p>Nicole Gortian to update signage for cistern to reflect this caution.</p> |
| Committee Reports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Activities: Elisa Esposito mentioned at the annual meeting that she had a list of children's activities that she could share with us. • City Harvest: 23 people have signed up to host a plant so far, which is an increase over last year. • Community Events: Re: Street Scenes, Grace Wicks will speak about window boxes on May 9th at 10am in the garden. Alan is still trying to contact someone for a second workshop. Lois has been in touch with Maggie Mund about advertising for the workshop. • Facilities: A gardener who was trained by Chris Henningsen will continue to bait rat traps on workday. • Garden Chores: Except for August/September, most slots are full. • Parkside Plantings: Lois reported for Joan Wells. Joan cleaned out the cistern just in time for filling; she suggested that we put it on the calendar for mid-March as a reminder in subsequent years. Allison Miller has agreed to come on work day to consult on the pruning. Tom McKeon has begun to espalier the 2 fruit trees that were planted in the fall and will remove the protective cloth from the new fig trees. | <p>Nicole Gortian will follow up with Elisa.</p> <p>Linda Zamis will bring sign-up sheets to work day to solicit additional volunteers. Carol Eaton will drop off completed surveys to Michelle Langer/Alan Cohen. Michelle Langer/Alan Cohen to coordinate with Grace Wicks. Lois Evans will convey information from Maggie Mund to Michelle Langer/Alan Cohen.</p> <p>Linda Zamis to bring signup sheet so that remaining gardeners can sign up.</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plot Assignments: Waiting list is currently at 42. • Plot Use: No updates. Went over general requirements with Jane Epstein. • Website: No updates. • Workday Organization & Supervision: Lois Evans and Maja Bucan prepared a draft list of chores for April 11th. • Task Forces: Age Friendly, History: The Age Friendly Task Force has scheduled two focus groups: April 9 and 28th. | <p>Lois has prepared the Waitlist using initials for posting on the web and on the bulletin board {Nicole will laminate}.</p> <p>Lois Evans will get twine for workday for tying up things like tomato cages for storing or discarding. Maja Bucan will finalize list of chores and post on website by Friday 4/3. A copy will also be provided to Nicole Gortian to post on the bulletin board.</p> |
| Old business | <p>Update on One Riverside: Jeff Braff is checking on status and will let us know of any plans.</p> | |
| New Business | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Gardener Orientation: April 4 @ 1 pm (for 2 gardeners who needed an alternate) and April 11 at 8:30 • Spring Workday: 9:00-1:00 April 11 • Next Steering Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 6 | <p>Lois will lead these last two orientation sessions.</p> |