

**Schuylkill River Park Community Garden
Steering Committee Meeting
Markward Recreation Center
August 05, 2008**

Present:

Derek Freres (A-1), Chair
Linda Zaimis, Recording Secretary (B-4)
Selwa Baroody (E-4)
Chris Henningsen (F-3)
Al Kelman (J-6)
Seth Levi (J-7)
Doug Ross (H-6)
Bonnie Schmelz (J-1)
Amy Shain (D-5)
George Trotman (B-4)

Not Present:

Joyce Frye (H-6)
Hal Lehman, Treasurer (C-3)
Robert Reisley (D-1)
Gerri Spilka (B-3)

The meeting was called to order by Derek at 7:01 p.m.

The July minutes were amended to indicate one opposing vote for the motion to suspend removal of gardeners for plot maintenance issues for 2008. Amy made a motion to approve the amended minutes. Seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Available balance is \$1469.24.

Q & A Sessions:

Derek reported that three non-steering committee members attended the first session – two active gardeners and one waiting list member. For the second session one additional new active gardener attended.

Wood Mulch Rule – 2nd Vote:

Amy made a motion to pass the rule prohibiting wood mulch. Seconded and approved. This is the second Steering Committee meeting vote.

Main Gate:

Seth reported that the designer of the front gate made arrangements to have the rust removed and a protective coating put on the gate. The coating should last for 5 years.

Doug made a motion to use the maintenance fund to pay for the gate cleaning, the fee for the post office box and the cost of the sample brackets Seth purchased for the board replacement project. Seconded and approved.

Plot Board Replacement:

George reported that pressure treated wood and non-treated cedar last no more than 10 years, and recycled plastic wood will last many years, perhaps 30 or more. There are no known toxic chemicals in plastic wood that will leach into the soil. Selwa made a motion to set up two test plots in the fall with plastic lumber – one 10' x 20' plot and one 10' x 10' plot. Seconded and approved. Selwa made a second motion to set up a test 10' x 10' plot with cedar. Seconded but not passed with 4 votes to approve and 4 votes opposed.

Voles:

Some gardeners are having problems with voles eating the vegetables in their plot. Seth will investigate vole traps and poison.

Rules:

A draft copy of the revised rules is being circulated among the sub-committee members.

Parkside Plantings:

Selwa reported that the mushroom compost seems to be working and the volunteers are keeping up with the watering and weeding.

Facilities:

George asked for recommendations of contractors that we can contact to do the board replacement test plots in the Fall but no names were offered.

Cherry Trees:

Derek and Seth met with Fairmount Park commissioner, Mark Focht. No decisions have been made.

Gardener Involvement:

Discussion of how to get more gardeners involved and foster a sense of community included the possibility of Sunday BBQs, a flea market, educational events to talk about the Fall garden. Derek will invite CCRA Board members and FSRP Board members to the pot luck party on August 16th. Al made a motion to schedule a mini-work day in September. Seconded and approved.

Work Tasks:

Each plot has its own assigned task for maintaining the common areas, such as sweeping, removing trash, trimming ivy, etc. This system is not working as most gardeners are not aware of their assigned task. Al made a motion to suspend the current assignment system and put in a voluntary system with a posting of tasks that need to be done where we need help from all gardeners. Seconded and approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Linda Zaimis, Recording Secretary