

**APPROVED**

**Schuylkill River Park Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**

Markward Recreation Center

Wednesday, July 2, 2014. 6:30- 8:00 PM

**Minutes Submitted by:** Cecily Kihn, Recording Secretary

**All Present:** Maja Bucan/Scott Poethig (I-1), Margie Cole (G-7), Carol Eaton (E-7), Lois Evans (Chair) (E-6), Nicole Gortian (J-6), Christine Guiliano (G-2), Chris Henningsen (E-2), Cecily Kihn (K-3), Michele Langer/Alan Cohen (C-7), Wayne Rosenberger (Treasurer) (E-5), Jim Wells (J-7), Linda Zaimis (K-5)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Responsible Party/ Timeline
Call to order & Approval of Minutes	Minutes of the May 7, 2014 meeting reviewed. Motion to approve by Carol, second by Alan with one addition. [NOTE: No meeting was held in June.]	Minutes with addition approved unanimously by voice vote. Cecily will post on website and garden BB.
Treasurer’s Report	Wayne reported on the 15-month period just ended. He will meet with CCRA Treasurer next week to reconcile these figures with CCRA’s overall report. There’s a substantial carryover of \$10,132 going into next year as we spent less than half our proposed budget in FY2014. Motion by Michele to approve, seconded by Christine. Wayne reviewed the proposed budget for the current FY (7/1/14-6/30/15); the new budget period now allows SRPCG financials to be in sync with those of CCRA. This budget includes moving \$8,000 from operating budget FY2014 carryover to capital budget in order to continue accumulating sufficient funds for anticipated future infrastructure improvements (e.g., plumbing). An additional \$6-7,000 will likely be available for such use from the FY 2015 operating budget if need be.	Treasurer’s Report approved unanimously by voice vote.
Chair’s Report	<p><u>Recent plant gifts:</u> Dick Atkinson, Elizabeth Savage, Mary Jones, and Ted and Diane Reed have given plants. Thank you notes have been sent by CCRA or Lois.</p> <p><u>Request for judges for CCRA Street Scene Competition &amp; party at SRPCG 9/21.</u> As of 6/24 there were 46 entries (to which the garden window box workshop likely contributed). Need 8-12 judges, so far have 4. Joan has asked for more SC volunteers. Judges will form teams of 4 that will each have 10-12 entries to judge. Lois, Wayne, Alan, Christine, and Margie volunteered.</p> <p><u>Application made to PHS Gardening and Greening Contest.</u> Judging will take place 7/15-8/15. PHS will give Lois a minimum of 3 days’ notice. Lois requested that 2-3 additional SC members be with her when the judges come. PHS has also asked for photos. Maja suggested that Sally’s friend who photographed during Spring Workday be asked; if unavailable, then Lois will take photos with her iPhone.</p> <p><u>New changes in Rat Bait &amp; Discussion of Safe Box Placement.</u> Following pressure from EPA, 12-d-CON rat and mouse poison product production will be phased out beginning June 2014, with distribution of existing stock ending by March 31, 2015. SRPCG still has a supply of this bait which it has been using in safe bait boxes throughout the garden. Lois is worried about some of the current placements in terms of accessibility to</p>	<p>Lois will notify Joan who continues to represent SRPCG on this planning group.</p> <p>Lois will email SC when notice of visit arrives.</p> <p>Lois will follow up</p> <p>Chris and Wayne will move the boxes from the plot area on Workday and also replenish the bait in all boxes. Lois will circulate the announcement re: 12-d-CON to SC members.</p>

	<p>children and closeness to garden plants in one area near the walk. Wayne and Chris said the boxes are easy to move and very difficult to open.</p> <p><u>Request by gardener to use alternate watering process.</u> A plotholder who is unable physically to use watering cans and wishes to remain fully engaged in gardening has asked the SC to consider use of an alternative process that does not include use of the garden hoses. The proposed process involves using one of the garden pumps to fill a large bucket/container with water, then pumping water from the container (NOT the garden water system) to the nearby plot using a submersible pump and a curled hose. The gardener will supply all of the proposed materials, taking the pump and hose home and storing the bucket/container in the plot after each use. The gardener demonstrated the pump and described proposed plans to three SC members last week. Safety promotion plans include watering when fewest people are around, placing orange cones in the walkway and attaching reflective tape on the hose to protect against accidental tripping. A full discussion ensued. The current <i>Urban Garden Rules &amp; Guidelines</i> specify that buckets or watering cans are to be used to water plots. There was consensus that the proposed plan is a reasonable workaround for a gardener with a special need that also does not violate current garden rules. Motion by Scott to approve the request with Carol seconding.</p>	<p>Approved unanimously by voice vote. Carol suggested monitoring this special case throughout the summer. Lois will follow up with gardener.</p>
<p>Committee Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>City Harvest</u>-Linda reported that the garden has donated 131 lbs. Contributions are currently limited to 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Weds. due to renovations at the collection site.</li> <li>• <u>Education</u>- There was a good turnout of about 25 people for the square foot gardening workshop. Alan would like to proceed with a workshop on what to plant late in the season; Nicole has a speaker for this topic identified for late August or early September. Repeating the weed workshop in summer and adding one on seed starting for late fall or early winter was also suggested.</li> <li>• <u>Facilities</u>-Lois asked for approval to get an estimate for improving the electrical supply to the garden so that it's safer and more user friendly. Scott suggested the purchase of a gas-run weed whacker to take care of the fencelines; as an alternative, Lois suggested renting one from Home Depot for each work day.</li> <li>• <u>Garden Chores</u>- Garbage cans are often over-filled. Carol suggested a sign be placed on the lids of the garbage cans asking gardeners not to overfill them.</li> <li>• <u>Parkside Plantings</u>- Lois shared excerpts from Joan's detailed report on the parkside plantings. A total of 83 new plants have been added so far this year. Joan requests SC help with weeding and trash removal while she is away during the last</li> </ul>	<p>Nicole will secure a PHS speaker for workshop on weed identification for July. Scott will approach Doris Stahl to do a repeat workshop on seed starting late fall/early winter.</p> <p>There was consensus that Lois request an estimate for the electrical update/improvements. Lois will work with Derek Freres to obtain the estimate that should include burying the feedline and switching interior floodlights to LED. Lois will circulate the estimate to SC for feedback/ assistance in negotiating a contract. Lois will explore rental rates for weed whackers. Cecily will place signs on the lids.</p> <p>Alison Rulon-Miller will work with Margie to supervise Parkside Planting chores on Workday.</p>

	<p>two weeks of July.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Plot use</u>-Chris reported that there are no issues.</li> <li>• <u>Workday</u>-Carol will manage the food. Maja passed around a simplified list of chores to be done prior to and during the garden workday and asked for comments. She asked that SC members volunteer to 'oversee' specific chores (e.g., parkside plantings, compost).</li> </ul>	<p>Maja will submit the pdf list to Sally for placement on the website. SC members to volunteer for preferences via email to Maja by Tuesday, July 8.</p>
Old Business	<p>Age friendly garden options: SC to consider suggestions on how we might make the garden more age-friendly.</p>	<p>Lois will invite someone from Elder-Friendly Philadelphia to an SC meeting in September or October for this discussion.</p>
New Business	<p>Maggot and Mosquito Management. Carol earlier identified maggots in the trash cans as a result of food waste (meat) from picnickers; Cecily posted a sign asking picnickers to take such waste home, and so far this has seemed effective. Carol suggested the use of Bt to control mosquito larvae in the cistern. 1 briquette should last ~ 30 days, depending on water use. These bacteria are non-toxic to people, pets and wildlife and will also help to reduce black flies and some plant pests in the garden.</p> <p>Plan to systematically review Garden Rules for currency/continued necessity. Lois asked if the SC should examine the origin of the current rules and to determine whether they still make sense. Alan suggested 2-3 people serve on a committee. Lois suggested interviewing some long-time gardeners to help determine bases for rules.</p> <p>Alan raised the idea of a no-smoking sign, noting that the Rules posted at the garden entrance do not include a notice about no smoking.</p> <p>Next Steering Committee Meeting: Wednesday, August 6, 6:30 PM</p>	<p>There was consensus to use the Bt briquettes in the cistern as a mosquito prevention measure. Lois will write a message to gardeners about the use of Bt and include the weblink for more information re: its safety; Cecily will post the same message on the BB so that gardeners will understand that the briquettes are to control mosquitoes. Carol will order a supply of 20 and place 1-2 in a mesh bag secured to the fountain in the cistern.</p> <p>Carol, Michele and Chris volunteered for this committee.</p> <p>There was consensus that the garden should be in compliance with the current City position about smoking in public parks. Lois will explore how we might add to the current sign or obtain a replacement.</p>

*Recorded by Cecily Kihn, Recording Secretary Approved by the Steering Committee August 6, 2014*