

**Schuylkill River Park Community Garden
Steering Committee Meeting
Markward Recreation Center
June 4, 2008**

Present:

Derek Freres (A-1), Chair
Linda Zaimis, Recording Secretary (B-4)
Selwa Baroodi (E-4)
Chris Henningsen (F-3)
Al Kelman (J-6)
Seth Levi (J-7)
Robert Reisley (D-1)
Doug Ross (H-6)
Gerri Spilka (B-3)
George Trotman (B-4)

Not Present:

Joyce Frye (H-6)
Hal Lehman, Treasurer (C-3)
Bonnie Schmelz (J-1)
Amy Shain (D-5)

The meeting was called to order by Derek Freres at 7:03 p.m.

Al Kelman made a motion to approve the May minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

The current balance is \$1,457.50 with an unallocated contingency fund of \$703.00. See attached for detailed report.

Honorarium to Nicolas King:

Doug Ross made a motion to dedicate the rose garden bed in honor of Nicolas King and to install a plaque in recognition of Nicolas' contributions to the garden. Al and Hal will purchase the plaque.

Park lighting:

Seth reported that Fairmount Park fixed the two broken lights in the garden and two next to the East gate. Seth will set up a walk-through with a representative from Fairmount Park to see what other lights in the Park need to be replaced. Seth was told that new additional lights cannot be added because of current electrical circuit limitations.

Tomato trials:

John Buckley is the coordinator this year with participation from people on the waiting list. An e-mail was sent to all on the waiting list inviting them to attend the tomato planting day. Six people attended. A watering schedule has been set up among the volunteers.

Friends of SRP Coordination Report:

Derek and Fran Levi asked Friends of SRP to have a Garden representative on their board. Derek will be the representative. Derek planted a butterfly garden outside the tot lot near the recreation center. Sally Frazza will water and maintain the butterfly bed.

Plot expiration dates:

The garden plot map on the bulletin board currently shows plot expiration dates of 2008 and 2009 next to the gardeners' names. Following discussion about using expiration dates or entry dates, Gerri made a motion to put entry dates next to all gardeners' names. Doug made a second motion to add a disclaimer at the bottom of the map that leases are renewable every year up to a total of six years for gardeners in good standing. The combined motions were seconded and approved (5 votes to approve, 3 votes opposed).

Open Gate Suggestion:

Derek has received many positive e-mails and public comments about the open gate policy. There was one negative response. All gardeners are asked to please make sure all visitors are out before locking the gate. There was one incident where visitors were locked in and tried to climb over the fence to get out.

Garden Bulletin Board:

Derek repainted the bulletin board and divided it into two sections, one for posting the Steering Committee minutes and the other for general garden information. Al made a motion that all formal documents will be posted on the bulletin board and will constitute official notification to all gardeners, not to the exclusion of other modes of communication. Documents will be timely notices of current events, such as the most recent copy of the Steering Committee minutes. Seconded and approved.

CSX Public Meeting:

CSX will hold a public meeting on June 12 at the Trinity Church from 6 to 8 PM. Derek will send an e-mail to all gardeners and waiting list members and post an announcement on the Bulletin Board.

Committee Reports:

Rules and Document Consistency/Review: Al and Doug are continuing their review of rules, bylaws and other documents.

Parkside Plantings: See Web site for detailed report.

Complaints/Grievances: Gerri made a motion to accept the E. Savage grievance resolution report as written. Seconded and approved.

Facilities: George reported that Linda purchased an 18# bucket of rat poison and three new bait boxes. We received three replacement locks from

Master Lock and purchased a new long-shank lock for the front gate. George removed the asphalt bump in the front gate entrance and installed a metal tube in the ground to hold the gate door rod. Discussions about the plot board replacements are in progress. Chris obtained and installed a new burner element in the old gas grill and another grill has been donated. Rob will donate a drop-leaf oval plastic table and chairs to the garden. Gerri made a motion to purchase a new 4-wheeled plastic garden cart. Seconded and approved.

Capital Projects: Seth made a motion to establish a maintenance fund for the Garden with CCRA. Seconded and approved.

Plot Fees:

Derek sent a communication to all gardeners explaining the need for an increase in garden fees and asked for feedback. Doug made a motion to send an e-mail suggesting a raise in plot fees to \$65 for 10x10, \$85 for 10x15 and \$105 for 10x20 with 25% of all fees to go into the Maintenance Fund. Al made a motion to consider an additional raise in the fees for 2010. Both motions seconded and approved.

Trinity Access Request:

Rob made a motion to give Trinity school teachers the combination to the Garden to allow them to bring the children into the garden. Seconded and approved. The teachers will be given a copy of the current Rules and Regulations and will be expected to supervise the children at all times when they visit the Garden.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Linda Zaimis,
Recording Secretary