

**Schuylkill River Park Community Garden
Annual Garden Meeting
Trinity Center for Urban Life
March 22, 2012**

The meeting was called to order by Derek Freres at 7:12pm.

Joan Wells introduced the new member gardeners and lottery plot gardeners.

Al Kelman made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 2011 Annual Meeting. Seconded and approved.

Fran Levi presented the Treasurer's Report. For 2012, \$3,485.00 is available from plot fees plus \$2,677.98 carry-over from previous years gives us a total of \$6,162.98 for the regular Garden operating account. For the 2012 Capital Budget, we have a balance of \$2,773.91, \$500 of which needs to be spent by 6/30/2012. Pat Kimmelman made a motion to approve the budget. Seconded and approved.

Fran presented a gift card to Derek from the members of the Steering Committee to thank him for his exemplary job as president of the Steering Committee and the enormous amount of accomplishments and improvements to the Garden because of his contributions and influence.

Linda Zaimis gave a summary of the Garden's participation in the City Harvest Program. Last year our food cupboard partner was the Lutheran Church on Chestnut St and we donated 525 pounds of fresh produce to them. The goal for this year is to enlist volunteers from the garden to be a host for one or more plants to increase the amount of produce we can donate.

Allison Rulon-Miller presented the Parkside Plantings report. There were 3 dedicated work days last year with many volunteers to help with the maintenance of the borders and more are planned for 2012. Derek installed an irrigation system which kept the plantings from suffering from lack of water. The Pedestrian Bridge Project will tie our irrigation system with the new system for the entire park and a new fence is planned as part of the overall Park landscaping project. The Rose Garden will have a new irrigation system installed and dead and diseased rose bushes will be removed. Gardeners are asked to be especially vigilant in April and May of anyone digging in the border beds as this is when theft of plants tends to occur.

Derek gave an update on the Pedestrian Bridge Project. The completion date is scheduled for October 2012 but could possibly be finished in September. The lights in the Garden will be replaced to match the ones in the entire Park and all of the ones inside the Garden will have electrical outlets. Additional lights will be installed outside the perimeter of the Garden for added security.

Joan Wells thanked everyone who participated in the community task chores last year. It was very successful with a minimum of effort by each gardener contributing to the enormous effort of removing trash each week and keeping the common areas looking neat and tidy. Gardeners are asked to sign up for a one week duty to be shared by one or two other gardeners that week to be responsible for tasks such as sweeping around the fountain area, sprucing up the watering cans in the potting bench area, straightening the wagons and putting out the trash bags on Sunday evenings. A checklist will be posted on the bulletin board and volunteers will be recruited via email request. Cecily Kihn will coordinate the duty roster this year.

Joan announced the proposed slate of Steering Committee members for 2012. Dianne Reed made a motion to accept the nominees. Seconded and approved.

The Garden Clean-up dates for 2012 are: March 31st at 9am, June 23rd at 9am and November 3rd at 10am.

The Garden Harvest Party will be on August 19th.

Dick Atkins motioned to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Linda Zaimis,
Recording Secretary