

Schuylkill River Park Community Garden 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2014, 7 pm

Trinity Center for Urban Life, 22nd & Spruce Streets, Philadelphia, PA

Attendance: 33 Gardeners + guests

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Responsible Party/Timeline
Call to Order Introduction of New Gardeners	Joan Wells, 2013-14 Chair, called meeting to order & welcomed new & returning Gardeners; new Gardeners were then introduced.	New Gardeners to sign up for/attend one of four orientation sessions.
March 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes	Motion to accept made by Anthony Stuempfig, seconded by Cecily Kihn.	Approved by voice vote.
Garden Chair Report	<p>Garden Citizenship: Gardeners were reminded that use of a plot is a privilege, bound by Garden Rules that aim at fairness for all. Participation in the three Work Days (or arrangement for make-up chores), completion of Community Chores requirements, and management of the plot according to garden rules is expected to maintain gardener status.</p> <p>Maintaining Connections: The SRPCG website contains useful information about pest & weed control, plantings, discounts on garden supplies, recipes using garden produce, etc., as well as access to the Garden History, Steering Committee minutes, and organizational documents (Bylaws, Garden Rules, etc.). The Garden’s Facebook page at Schuylkill River Park Community Garden (also accessible by clicking the Blog link on Garden website home page) provides for more informal dialogue and sharing among Gardeners.</p> <p>Garden Stewardship: For the past three years, each plot holder has volunteered for a week of Garden Chores (keeping common spaces clean, removing trash, refilling the cistern, etc.). This has worked well to maintain the garden as a pleasant environment, both for gardeners and the general public. Cecily Kihn will again manage the Garden Chores assignments.</p> <p>Educational Workshops: This past year the Garden offered several educational workshops, some better attended than others. A survey in the meeting materials packet will help identify preferred topics/timing for this year.</p> <p>Status of the Proposed Dranoff Building at 25th & Locust: An agreement between Dranoff and a group of concerned neighbors was signed today that will lend protections to the Garden and neighborhood. Since no variances were required for the proposed building, neighbors secured an attorney to</p>	<p>Gardeners who will be away when crops will ripen are encouraged to notify Linda Zaimis (put a note in Plot K-5 or the City Harvest Box in the Potting Shed) to permit harvesting for City Harvest rather than allowing produce to rot, thus attracting rodents; likewise, gardeners who cannot fully utilize their plot were urged to consider donating space for City Harvest plantings.</p> <p>Gardeners to visit website and link with Garden Facebook page.</p> <p>Gardeners urged to sign up tonight for a preferred week.</p> <p>Gardeners asked to complete survey; attend workshops.</p> <p>Joan publically thanked Ted Reed and John Gardener for their successful efforts on behalf of the neighborhood.</p>

	<p>investigate and appeal on the basis of the proposed above ground parking. Funds for this effort came solely from neighbors, not the Garden or CCRA. Features of the agreement include moving the building 21' from the Garden [vs. the proposed 8'), role for Garden in approving landscaping and maintenance of that space, underground parking only, move of loading dock from 25th street to a space on the property, no café or other public use space, provision for safety for Gardeners during construction, management of solar glare from the glass façade, and opportunity for monitoring the evolving design.</p>	
Treasurer's Report	<p>Wayne Rosenberger, Treasurer, presented the current year's budget (now extended to June 30 in order to match the fiscal year of CCRA, the Garden's parent organization). The extended period now includes revenue from two years' plot fees. We expect a surplus at year end of ~\$7625 in Operating Budget and ~\$5942 in Capital Budget. The Budget proposed for FY 2015 reflects an attempt to simplify the Chart of Accounts into fewer, more manageable categories. We project a slight increase in Operating Expenses, primarily to account for refurbishing the Parkside Plantings that have been damaged by the past two years' construction activities; in addition, we propose transfer of \$8000 into the Capital Account to continue building a reserve for expected future major repairs (e.g., plumbing). Gardeners raised two questions regarding: [1] whether any grants have been sought/secured, and [2] the possibility of renting the Garden for public use as a potential revenue source.</p>	<p>[1] No grant sources were identified this past year; gardeners were encouraged to notify the Steering Committee of potential sources. [2] The Garden Steering Committee has approved use of the Garden for events such as a children's birthday party or Wedding Photographic sessions, with request for a nominal donation.</p>
City Harvest Report	<p>Linda Zaimis, who has managed the Garden's participation in City Harvest for the past several years, oriented Gardeners to this collaboration among several NFP organizations in the region. Some 70 community gardens participate in City Harvest which distributed some 100 tons of food through food cupboards last year. SRPCG donates its produce to the food cupboard at the Lutheran Church on Chestnut Street; last year, we contributed over 900 lb.; our goal for this year is to donate a half ton (1000 lb.) of food as a way of giving back to the community.</p>	<p>Gardeners were urged to consider 'fostering' a plant for City Harvest in their plots which Linda will harvest, to continue to donate excess produce in the designated box in the work area, and to notify Linda when produce may be harvested during Gardener away times by putting a note in the City Harvest contribution box on the work bench in the potting shelter.</p>
Parkside Planting Report	<p>Joan Wells noted that the Parkside Plantings area was somewhat 'on hold' during SRP construction work over the past 2 years; this spring we will assess winter freezing damage and need for replacements and improvements.</p>	<p>Joan has volunteered to chair the Parkside Plantings committee for this year and requests volunteers.</p>

Community Chores Report and Sign-up Reminder	Cecily Kihn distributed a signup list for Gardeners to indicate preferred week for completing their Garden Chores.	Gardeners to sign up; Cecily Kihn to send timely reminders/contact information to the two Gardeners sharing the week.
Garden Education Project and Survey Reminder	Nicole Gortian, who co-chairs the Education Committee with Michele Langer/Alan Cohen, described the plans for this year's educational offerings. The first is a Window box Workshop, co-sponsored with CCRA, for April 26 at 10:30 AM; Grace Wicks of Graceful Gardens, will be the leader.	Gardeners were asked to complete the survey to indicate preferred topics and times for sessions.
Election of 2014 Steering Committee	Joan Wells presented the slate of nominees to serve on the Garden Steering Committee for 2014-15. No further nominations were made from the floor.	Anthony Stuempfig moved and Ted Reed seconded the motion to accept the proposed slate. The motion was carried by voice vote.
Announcement of 2014 Committee Chairs; Call for Volunteers	Joan Wells announced chairs of the Garden Committees for this year and asked for volunteers to assist each chair.	Gardeners to volunteer.
Thanks to outgoing Steering Committee Gardeners	The following Steering Committee members will rotate out of the Garden this year: Mark Gamba, Waiting List Plantings; Al Kelman, Plot Use; Doug Ross/Joyce Frye, facilities; Joan Wells, Garden Chair.	Gardeners acknowledged their service.
Reminder of Important 2014 Dates	Joan Wells reminded gardeners of the Required Spring Work Day in the Garden on Saturday, April 12 at 9 am and to confirm a work week for completing Garden Chores.	
Announcements	Locks: The garden lock combination will be changed on Friday, March 28 and an announcement re: the code will be sent to all gardeners. Compost: Mushroom compost will be delivered on April 1 and is available for use by Gardeners as well as the Parkside Planting area. Water: The water will be turned on as soon as weather improves.	
Program	John Randolph, Founder and past President of the Schuylkill River Development Council, presented a video regarding the revitalization of the tidal Schuylkill and the creation of Schuylkill River Park. Thoughts regarding next steps and timelines for continuing development were discussed.	

Minutes Recorded by Lois Evans, 2013 Steering Committee Recording Secretary.

Minutes approved by Gardeners at March 26, 2015 Annual Garden Meeting.