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Schuylkill River Park Community Garden 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2017, Tuesday, 7 pm

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

Attendance: 38 Gardeners & guests

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Responsible Party/Timeline
Welcome to New Gardeners Reception & Refreshments		Gardeners had the opportunity to sign in, sign up for a Chores Week, and to volunteer for hosting a City Harvest plant, to serve as a Garden Mentor, or for a number of projects & committees.
Call To Order	Jim Wells, Steering Committee Annual Meeting MC, called the meeting to order and announced that since the 2016 Annual Meeting, the Steering Committee instituted a decentralized governance structure with no chair, and hence the need for an “MC.” He reminded gardeners to sign in and to sign up for chores week, and of the work day on Saturday April 8, and announced the showing of the special History Project Film, by Maja Bucan and Lois Evans, at the close of the meeting.	
Introduction of New Gardeners	Eleven New & Returning Gardeners were introduced by Jim Wells.	New gardeners are to attend one of three orientation sessions in the garden.
March 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes	Motion to accept made by Joan Wells, and seconded by Michelle Langer.	Approved by voice vote.
Treasurer’s Report	Treasurer Wayne Rosenberger presented the 2017 budget, 2017 projections, and the 2018 budget. The garden now has its own checking account separate from CCRA. The CCRA and garden accounts are in sync, with FY 2017 ending June 30, and 2018 beginning July 1. The 2017 budget and projections include \$1500 for the completed history project. The projected carry forward balance of almost \$9,000 is a good surplus and ensures a cushion in the event of unexpected major expenses such as shed or plumbing repair.	
City Harvest Report	Linda Zaimis, who has managed the Garden’s participation in City Harvest for the past several years, oriented Gardeners to this collaboration, established in 2006, among PHS, the Philadelphia prison system, and SHARE. The program supplies canned goods and vegetables to food banks throughout the city. SRPCG vegetables are delivered to Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion (2110 Chestnut) where food bank is offered 3 times a month, and to St. John’s Hospice	Gardeners are encouraged volunteer to host one caged plant that Linda will plant in May, 2017. Gardeners water, and Linda harvests.

	(12 th and Race) where meals are provided daily. Last year the garden contributed 981 pounds. City Harvest supplies the seeds, prisoners supply the seedlings. Seeds are available for gardeners at the meeting, and more will be available after the work day. Donated vegetables can be accepted every day. Signup sheet to host a plant (either a pepper or tomato) is at the table, along with meeting sign in and work week chore sheets.	
Community Chores Report and Sign-up Reminder	Linda Zaimis explained the weekly chores program. The chores, including sweeping and taking out trash, are listed on the garden web site and will be posted on the bulletin board. A chore week runs from Monday to Sunday. Garbage is to be put at the curb on Mondays rather than Sundays if the Monday is a city holiday.	All gardeners are to sign up for a work week. Gardeners who share a chore week are encouraged to coordinate tasks.
Parkside Planting Report	Joan Wells discussed the park side plantings. Perennial beds outside the garden are our gift to the park. They are part of the Schuylkill River Park. Joan acknowledged Parks and Rec crew for pruning and mulching. Also acknowledged Riverside One developer Dranoff and Parks and Rec for replacing ivy at north boarder (at 25 th Street) with plantings designed by Bryan Hanes Studio. Thanks to Phil Lahaie for tending the iris beds, and Dick Atkins for donating red hibiscus and Ixora coccinea (jungle flame) potted plants that adorn the cistern area, as well as to the gardeners who take in and care for the potted plants during the winter. The garden was awarded 1 st place in the PHS City Garden Contest – warm round of applause.	Gardeners are encouraged to help with the sweeping and other tasks
Garden Education	Allen Cohen announced that past gardener surveys revealed the most interest in two topics: 1)soil and 2)tomatoes. Scott Poethig, has generously agreed to give a presentation on these topics in time for planting activities. Dates to be announced. Scott, professor in the Biology department at Penn, studies plant development and teaches a course on The Biology of Food.	
Children's Activities/Ladybug Release Party	Jim Wells called for volunteers to assist Jacoba Zaring, in organizing the ladybug release party scheduled for Thursday May 18, 2017.	Gardeners, especially those with young children, are encouraged to volunteer.
Election of 2017 Steering Committee	Jim Wells presented the slate of nominees to serve on the Garden Steering Committee for 2017-18. No further nominations were made from the floor.	The motion to accept the proposed slate was moved, seconded, and carried by voice vote.
Announcement of 2017 Committee Leadership; Call for Volunteers	Jim announced Garden Committee and Task Force leadership for this year and asked for assistance from volunteers.	Volunteer Gardeners are needed for Children's activities, Parkside Plantings, Website.
Thanks to outgoing Steering Committee & Volunteer Gardeners	These Steering Committee members are rotating off this year: Nicole Gortian (Secretary); Christine Guiliano (Plot Assignments); Wayne Rosenburger (Treasurer). The special contributions of Joan Wells (Parkside Planting), Sally	Gardeners acknowledged this service.

	Frazza (web management, herb garden) & Jacoba Zaring (Children's Activities/Ladybug Release Party), were also acknowledged.	
Reminder of Important 2017 Dates	Jim reminded gardeners of the required work days in the Garden-- Saturdays, April 8, July 15, and November 4 from 9 am to 1 pm. The Ladybug Release Party will be on Thursday, May 18 th at 5pm and the Harvest Supper will be Sunday, August 27 at 5pm. All these dates are on the website. All new gardeners are required to attend one of 3 orientations: Friday March 31 at 6 pm, Saturday April 1 at 1 pm, and Saturday April 8 at 8:30 am (which is the most popular session as it falls before the required Spring work day}.	
Program Garden History Project Film	After thanking gardeners for Project donations, and acknowledging Chris Cook, videographer, and before the screening of the film, Maja Bucan described how by chance, while attending a conference 15 years ago, the presenter showed an old photo of the building that is now Locust Point. He said the first genetically engineered mouse was created there in 1982. Maja recognized the building in the photo and was inspired, and the Garden History Project was born. Before the film, Maja presented that photo, and others of the site and of gardeners from the early days, and described how with the help of those photos, she was able to identify and contact the Founding Gardeners to gauge their interest in participating in the Project. The response was overwhelming and tonight we view the result. In appreciation, Maja hosted Founding Gardeners for a dinner at her home before they came to Trinity for the screening. Lois Evans rolled out a red carpet and invited Founding Gardeners in attendance to walk the red carpet as she introduced them. The film was enthusiastically received.	
Adjournment	Jim Wells reminded gardeners to sign in, sign up for a Chores Week, and come to the work day on Saturday, April 8. Meeting adjourned at 8:20.	

Minutes Recorded by Steve Slaterbeck, 2016 Steering Committee Member on behalf of Nicole Gortian, Secretary.

Minutes Pending approved by Gardeners at 2018 Annual Garden Meeting