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Schuylkill River Park Community Garden 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2019, Thursday, 7 pm

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

Attendance: 48 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, or for a number of projects & committees.
Call To Order	Lillian Cohen, 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.” She reminded gardeners to sign in and to sign up for chores week, and of the work day on Saturday April 6, and announced that gardener Scott Poethig would present “Tomatoes” program.	
Introduction of New CCRA President	Lillian introduced Maggie Mund, gardener and new CCRA president, who briefed the group on CCRA doings and issues including: Monthly Zoning Meetings; Big Belly trash cans; replacing House Tour (65 years!) with Garden Tour as fundraiser; City Council candidates incumbent Kenyatta Johnson and Lauren Vidas debate April 3; Casino Night fundraiser and award presentation to Ed Rendell at The Ethical Society May 9; Annual Board meeting and call for working board members (particularly for marketing and event planning functions).	
Program “Tomatoes”	Scott Poethig, Penn geneticist, botanist, and long-time gardener presented a program on “Tomatoes.” Among highlights: recommends book “Ripe, The Search for the Perfect Tomato” by Arthur Allen; heirloom (can keep seeds from year to year) vs. hybrid (more robust, disease resistant); determinate (flower/bear fruit once/ season) vs. indeterminate (bear fruit often); start mid-March and transplant late April/Early May 2-feet apart stem below ground with weak fertilizer (eg Plant-tone); soak well twice/week; prune suckers! Scott likes Aunt Ruby’s German Green (starts turning yellow when ripe).	
Introduction of New Gardeners	Fourteen New & Returning Gardeners were introduced by Lillian Cohen, who encouraged gardeners to tap fellow gardeners for advice and to utilize Gardener Resources that appear on the web site.	New gardeners are required to attend one of three orientation sessions in the garden.
March 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes	Motion to accept made by Doris Wagner, and seconded by Micki Young.	Approved by voice vote.

<p>Treasurer's Report</p>	<p>Katie Tremont presented the 2018/19 budget, 2018/19 projections, and the 2019/20 budget. FY 2018/2019 budget expenses include Honoraria projections, higher than previous years, due to work day education programs (which commenced on the fall 2018 work day), so with 3 work days and 1 annual meeting \$400 projected. Major Repair Total 2018/19 includes \$1000 for cistern valve replacement. The projected carry forward balance - over \$9,000 - is a good surplus and ensures a cushion in the event of unexpected major expenses such as shed or plumbing repair.</p>	
<p>City Harvest Report</p>	<p>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 (12th and Race) where meals are provided daily to homeless. Last year the garden contributed 1164 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 (pepper, tomato, or eggplant) is at the table, along with meeting sign in and work week chore sheets. If you elect to host a pepper plant, this Islander Purple variety appears first as purple (and mistaken for ripe). Linda harvests when they ripen to red.</p>	<p>Gardeners are encouraged volunteer to host one caged plant that Linda will plant in May, 2019. Gardeners simply have to water, and Linda harvests. Also gardeners may donate by dropping any extra harvest in the caged box on the table opposite bulletin board, or if going on vacation, notify Linda if you'd like to donate your vegetables while you're away, and she will be happy to harvest.</p>
<p>Community Chores Report and Sign-up Reminder</p>	<p>Katie Tremont 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. Chore week not to be confused with the three mandatory Garden Work Days (see below).</p>	<p>All gardeners are to sign up for a work week. Gardeners who share a chore week are encouraged to coordinate tasks. Email the committee at srpcginfo@srpcg.org if trash bags are running low.</p>
<p>Garden Work Days</p>	<p>Jerry Faisch announced mandatory Garden Work Days April 6, July 13, November 2 from 9am-1pm. Garden Work Days are not to be confused with your chore week (see above). Garden work day sign in absolutely no later than 9:30. Hot dogs, veggie burgers served around 11:30. A load of compost is scheduled for delivery on Friday, March 29. Compost is available to all gardeners.</p>	<p>Gardeners who cannot attend a work day must notify Jerry at gfaich@gmail.com to arrange for make-up tasks.</p>
<p>Parkside Planting Report</p>	<p>Scott Farrington, horticulturalist and wait list gardener, briefed the group. Thanks to: Joan Wells for ongoing work! Phil Lahaie for sweeping pathways around Parkside Plantings and tending the iris beds. Gardeners who plant-sit potted plants during the winter: Lois Evans, Maggie Mund, Nicole Gortian, Ted Reed,</p>	<p>Gardeners are encouraged to ask Scott, Joan, or Mary Lou Gross how they may assist in maintaining the Parkside Plantings.</p>

	Joan Wells. Scott Farrington for help with cleanup, and pruning in the planting beds. Recently Parks and Rec contractor crew did a fabulous job of spreading compost mulch on all Parkside Plantings beds. Looks great and the compost will help keep down the weeds and feed the plants at the same time.	
Garden Education	Katie Tremont reported that pilot education session presented at the end of Fall 2018 Work Day was popular enough to continue garden education sessions around 11:00 at each of the 2019 Work Days. Edwin McFarland of PHS give a talk about “Herbs” at the upcoming April 6 Work Day.	
Children’s Activities/Ladybug Release Party	Katie Tremont called for volunteers to assist in organizing the ladybug release party scheduled for Saturday May 11, 2019. Also thanks to Jacoba Zaring who has organized this party in recent years.	Gardeners, especially those with young children, are encouraged to volunteer.
Election of 2019 Steering Committee	Lillian presented the slate of nominees to serve on the Garden Steering Committee for 2019-20. 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 2019 Committee Leadership; Call for Volunteers	Lillian reminded gardeners to refer to the committees listed at the bottom of the agenda and consider participating in one or more.	Gardeners are encouraged to volunteer for a committee.
Thanks to outgoing Steering Committee & Volunteer Gardeners	Thanks to outgoing Steering Committee Gardeners: Andy/Karen Nicolini and Joan Wells. Jacoba Zaring (Children's Activities/Ladybug Release Party); Sally Frazza and Selwa Barody (website management & herb garden); Joan Wells (Parkside Plantings); Anthony Stuempfig (Facilities and Parkside Plantings) ;Phil Lahaie, Scott Farrington (Parkside Plantings); Laurie Taylor (Wait List Administration); Lois Evans, Nicole Gortian, Maggie Mund, Ted Reed, Joan Wells (Winter-sitting potted plants); Tom McKeon D-04 (Facilities/Fruit trees).	Gardeners acknowledged this service.
Reminder of Important 2019 Dates	Lillian reminded gardeners of the required work days in the Garden-- Saturdays, April 6, July 13, and November 2 from 9 am to 1 pm. The Ladybug Release Party will be on Saturday, May 11 th at 11am and the Harvest Supper will be Sunday, August 25 at 5pm. All these dates are on the website. All new gardeners are required to attend one of 3 orientations: Saturday March 30 at 1 pm, Sunday March 31 at 1 pm, and Saturday April 6 at 8:30 am (which is the most popular session as it falls before the required Spring work day). Two compost deliveries, one before the work day and one the following week.	Gardener’s who cannot attend any work day must contact Jerry Faich for make-up chores.
Adjournment	Lillian reminded gardeners to sign in, sign up for a Chores Week, and come to the work day on Saturday, April 6. Meeting adjourned at 8:30. New Code announced. Don’t forget to Join Schulykill Garden Community Garden Facebook group	

Minutes Recorded by Steve Slaterbeck, Secretary, 2018-2019 Steering Committee.

Minutes pending approval by Gardeners at 2020 Annual Garden Meeting