

Schuylkill River Park Community Garden 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2020, Thursday, 7 pm

Meeting conducted via Zoom due to COVID

(normally held at Trinity Center for Urban Life, 22nd & Spruce Streets, Philadelphia, PA

Attendance: 61 Gardeners & guests

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Responsible Party/Timeline
Welcome to Gardeners		As gardeners logged on Maja Bucan noted attendance.
Call To Order	Steve Slaterbeck, Steering Committee Annual Meeting MC, called the meeting to order, welcomed new and returning gardeners 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.”	
Program	Steve noted that due to extenuating circumstances the Committee opted not to have a program speaker as in previous years where topics included “Weeds,” “Tomatoes,” “Square Foot Gardening.”	We endeavor to resume programs at future annual meetings.
Introduction of New Gardeners	Steve 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 orientation session on Sat. April 4 8:30am in the garden.
March 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes	Motion to accept made and seconded.	Approved by voice vote.
Treasurer’s Report	Gino Insana, Treasurer, presented the financial report noting the Garden follows a fiscal year of July 1 to June 30th, coinciding CCRA fiscal year. The 2020-2021 Garden projected revenue including carryover from previous year is \$21,455; projected expenses total \$7661. We have a good surplus that ensures a cushion in the event of unexpected major expenses such as shed or plumbing repair.	
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, 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 1545 pounds (about .75 ton). Linda thanked the 39 gardeners who hosted a plant. Goal for 2020 is 1 ton. Gardeners are encouraged volunteer to host one caged plant that Linda will plant in May, 2020. Gardeners simply have to water, and Linda harvests.</p> <p>City Harvest supplies the seeds, prisoners supply the seedlings. Extra seeds are often available for gardeners on the workbench.</p> <p>\</p>	<p>A separate email will be sent to all gardeners to sign up to host a plant — please note your name & plot number. Linda will then supply each gardener with a cage and choice of pepper, tomato, or eggplant plant. She promises only to harvest from that plant. Linda also encouraged vacationing gardeners to notify Linda if they have extra produce while away. She will harvest and add to the City Harvest.</p> <p>Also gardeners may donate by dropping any extra harvest in the caged box on the table opposite bulletin board.</p>

Community Chores Report and Sign-up Reminder	<p>Mary Lou Gross reported on chore week. Each gardener is responsible for working for one week to tidy the common grounds of the Garden and to remove the trash at the end of their assigned week. The chores list, which includes sweeping and taking out trash, is posted on the shed but can also be found on the Garden web site.</p> <p>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 chore week. Mary Lou will be sending an email to all gardeners. Please sign up for 1 week. Two gardeners will be responsible to complete the chores. An email reminder will be sent, naming your partner for the week.</p> <p>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>
Garden Work Days	<p>Jerry Faich reported on Work Day. Work days are used to clean, weed, tidy all communal aspects of the Garden. Garden Work Days are not to be confused with your chore week (see above). The assigned days are not to be used for individual garden plot maintenance. 3 days have been scheduled. April 4, July 11 and November 7. As details may change as mandated by social distancing due to COVID-19. Jerry will post to all gardeners times and requirements. He encourages all NEW gardeners to attend orientation and clean up April 4 @ 8:30am. PLEASE bring your own gloves, and clippers you may have. If you cannot attend do notify Jerry and he will reschedule your required time.</p>	<p>Gardeners who cannot attend a work day must notify Jerry at gfaich@gmail.com to arrange for make –up tasks, or reschedule your required time.</p>
Parkside Planting Report	<p>Steve Slaterbeck reported on the Parkside Plantings on behalf of Scott Farrington. The plantings are maintained by gardeners as a gift to the Park. Joan Wells, Scott Farrington and Mary Lou Gross are key to this effort and can always use help. Thanks to Phil Lahaie for sweeping pathways around Parkside Plantings and tending the iris beds. Gardeners who plant-sit potted plants during the winter: Jerry Faich, Ted and Diane Reed, Joan Wells, Linda Zaimis.</p>	<p>Gardeners are encouraged to ask Scott Farrington, Joan Wells, or Mary Lou Gross how they may assist in maintaining the Parkside Plantings.</p>
Garden Education	<p>Garden Education, reported by Katie Tremont. As the COVID-19 has interrupted gatherings, speakers have been put on hold until later in the year. Katie welcomed suggestions for future speaker and any other suggestions to make the garden a positive experience.</p>	
Children’s Activities/Ladybug Release Party	<p>Katie Tremont reported that the Lady Bug Release Party will be scheduled later this spring, depending on COVID City Guidelines. Katie noted Jacoba Zaring has been invaluable in making the Lady Bug party a success each year.</p>	<p>If scheduled, Katie will email gardeners, calling for volunteers (especially from among those with young children).</p>
Election of 2020 Steering Committee	<p>Steve Slaterbeck presented the slate of nominees to serve on the Garden Steering Committee for 2020-21: Cricket Brocius, Maja Bucan, Lillian Cohen, Jerry Faich, Gino Insana, Mary Lou Gross, Michael Kihn, Pat Rohlfing, Katie Tremont and John Wagner. No further nominations were made from the floor.</p>	<p>Jerry Faich moved to accept the slate and was seconded by Mady Prowler. The voice vote to accept was unanimous to accept.</p>

Announcement of 2020 Committee Leadership; Call for Volunteers	Steve also noted new members are needed and encouraged to join the Steering Committee and any of the other sub-committees all committees are posted on the on the slide.	Gardeners are encouraged to volunteer for a committee.
Thanks to outgoing Steering Committee & Volunteer Gardeners	Maja Bucan thanked the retiring committee members, Steve Slaterbeck, Al Kelman, and Linda Zaimis. Steve Slaterbeck thanked volunteers: Natan Organick, Barbara Halpern (Lease mailing conversion), Jacoba Zaring (Children's Activities/Ladybug Release Party), Sally Frazza and Selwa Baroody (website management & herb garden), Joan Wells, Scott Farrington, Phil Lahaie (Parkside Plantings), Anthony Stuempfig (Facilities and Parkside Plantings), Jerry Faich, Ted and Diane Reed, Joan Wells, Linda Zaimis (Winter-sitting potted plants), Michael Stearn (Photographer), Tom McKeon (Facilities Fruit trees). Special thanks to John Wagner for managing conversion of lease mailing from snail mail to electronic.	Maja encouraged all gardeners to use the SRPCG web site where pertinent information as well as photos and gardening tips can be found. If one is on Facebook there is a Facebook page as well.
Adjournment	Steve thanked gardeners for attending and announced the new lock combination which works for both gates and the tool shed. Don't forget to Join Schuylkill Garden Community Garden Facebook group.	

Minutes Recorded by Lillian Cohen on behalf of Steve Slaterbeck, Secretary, 2019-2020 Steering Committee.

Minutes approved by Gardeners at 2021 Annual Garden Zoom Meeting