

**Schuylkill River Park Community Garden
Steering Committee Meeting
Markward Recreation Center
May 7, 2008**

Present:

Derek Freres (A-1), Chair
Linda Zaimis, Recording Secretary (B-4)
Hal Lehman, Treasurer (C-3)
Selwa Baroody (E-4)
Joyce Frye (H-6)
Al Kelman (J-6)
Seth Levi (J-7)
Robert Reisley (D-1)
Doug Ross (H-6)
Bonnie Schmelz (J-1)
Amy Shain (D-5)
Gerri Spilka (B-3)
George Trotman (B-4)

Not Present:

Chris Henningsen (F-3)

The meeting was called to order by Derek Freres at 7:03 p.m.

The amended minutes from the April 2, 2008 meeting were read. Al Kelman made a motion to approve the amended minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Garden income for 2008 stands at \$3,535 from plot fees.

Expenses for 2008 so far total \$753.66:

Meeting room	\$100.00
Stone fines	360.40
Rent to City	1.00
New wagons	96.26
Plumbing	196.00

Which leaves a balance in our account of \$2,781.34

Derek introduced Fran Levi and Michele Langer who were representing CCRA at the meeting. Michele asked that all gardeners be informed that whenever they make donations to CCRA that exceed the garden plot fee, that they please mark it as such on the memo portion of the check. Otherwise, the money will not go into the Garden account.

Derek read the letter of resignation from I. Nicolas King, resigning from both his position as chair (co-chair) of the Steering Committee and as a member of the Steering Committee. Al Kelman made a motion to accept the letter of resignation.

It was seconded and approved. Al Kelman, Hal Lehman, Doug Ross and Joyce Frye will get together and make a recommendation of how to thank and honor Nicolas' contribution to the garden.

Michele Langer gave an update on the CSX pedestrian bridge. (See attached documents.) She also asked that all gardeners please attend all public meetings regarding the pedestrian bridge and respond to e-mails, questionnaires, etc. in order to represent the Garden's interests in the final design stages of the bridge.

Residency requirements: The Garden Steering Committee inquired whether renters of plots in Schuylkill River Park Garden must be residents within CCRA's boundaries. Stanley Krakower, Esquire, as Counsel to the Board provided his opinion to the Board that the 1985 Fairmount Park Board resolution providing for creation of community gardens in the Park and its 1988 management agreement with CCRA for the SRP Garden, as well as his recollection of discussions at that time, establish the residency requirement. CCRA past-President Steve Huntington, who drafted the management agreement, stated he concurred with Krakower's conclusion. Fran Levi motioned and the Board voted unanimously to instruct the Garden Steering Committee to continue to apply the residency requirement.

Selwa Baroody and Alison Rulon-Miller gave the Parkside Plantings Report. (See attached.) Hal Lehman made a motion approve the parkside plantings plan and expenditures for the 2008 season. Seconded and approved. The first Parkside Planting Work Day is planned for Wednesday, evening, May 21. The plan is to hold these work days every other week. An attempt will be made to label all plants in the border for educational purposes.

Derek and Seth Levi reported on the presentation they gave at the CCRA Board Meeting in April which included photos of the garden taken by Seth. See attached document for their Schuylkill River Park Community Garden Basic Facts List. The presentation was well received and appreciated. Seth left them a 6½' by 1½' photo of the cistern and plantings that is now hanging in the CCRA office.

To give the Garden more of a public feel, CCRA suggested that gardeners fully open the gates when in the garden. This will give the impression that the public is welcome to come in and visit the Garden. A sign will be posted on the gates to remind everyone that dogs are not permitted in the Garden. Derek made a motion that gardeners are to be encouraged to leave the gates wide open when they are in the Garden. It was seconded and approved. Gardeners are reminded to ask visitors to leave if they are the last gardeners to leave and need to lock the gate. A reminder to secure the lock onto the gate while it is open will be put on the bulletin board.

Following discussion regarding the PHS City Gardens Contest, Selwa made a motion to participate in the contest, but not emphasize the competition, and to let the gardeners know when the judges will appear. Seconded and approved.

Regarding Elizabeth Savage's grievances, the following have been resolved:

- Residency requirements (see above);

- Transfer of administration of the Garden from CCRA to the Garden – any transfer will be minimal and CCRA will continue to maintain the waiting list and process payments for expenses;

- Waiting list - maintained by CCRA and posted on their website

The grievances of 2008 plot selection process and plot selection process moving forward will be addressed next meeting.

George Trotman gave the Facility Report. The Master Lock Company is going to replace three of the defective locks at no charge. A new long-shank lock has been purchased from Pine Street Hardware to replace the short lock on the front gate.

Raised plot boards replacement – four plots are turning over this year (two 10'x10' plots and two 20'x10' plots). George received 3 estimates from local tradesmen to replace the boards framing these plots. The estimates run from \$1500 to \$1900 (labor & material) for all four plots, using pressure treated lumber and corner braces. Following discussion of the pros and cons of pressure treated wood or composite plastic wood, Gerri Spilka suggested talking to Philadelphia Green for advice.

Seth made a proposal that the capital projects committee address all infrastructure maintenance issues (e.g., cherry trees and grape vines at the end of their lives; grape trellis and shed; cistern, East gate rust. etc.) Rob Reisley made a motion to accept Seth's proposal. Seconded and approved.

Doug Ross is going to head a Document Consistency Review group to look at the Bylaws, Rules & Regulations, and historical garden documents and pull them all together into one cohesive document for review by the Rules Committee. Hal Lehman and Bonnie Schmelz will assist Doug.

Derek has asked CCRA to post a copy of the Steering Committee minutes on their website and to keep a rolling year's worth of minutes.

Doug Ross made a motion to adjourn. Seconded and approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Linda Zaimis,
Recording Secretary