

APPROVED

Schuylkill River Park Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Markward Recreation Center

Wednesday, October 1, 6:30- 8:00 PM

Minutes Submitted by: Cecily Kihn, Secretary

Present: Maja Bucan/Scott Poethig (I-1), Margie Cole (G-7), Carol Eaton (E-7), Lois Evans (Chair)(E-6), Christine Guiliano (G-2), Cecily Kihn (Secretary) (K-3), Jim Wells (J-7), Linda Zaimis (K-5)

Not Present: Chris Henningsen (E-2), Michele Langer/Alan Cohen (C-7), Nicole Gortian (J-6), Wayne Rosenberger (Treasurer) (E-5)

Recorded by Cecily Kihn, Secretary. Approved by the Steering Committee pending for November, 2014

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Responsible Party/ Timeline
Call to order & Approval of Minutes	Minutes of the September 3, 2014, meeting reviewed. Motion to approve by Scott, second by Linda. Minutes approved unanimously by voice vote.	Cecily will post on website and garden BB.
Treasurer’s Report	Treasurer unable to attend meeting but the report was complete. The main items were the \$3,000 spent for electrical repairs; \$10,000 remains in the capital budget. Motion to approve the August and September reports was made by Christine and seconded by Carol. Motion was unanimously approved.	
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Groundhog/woodchuck.</u> SC agreed that it has a role in keeping the garden safe for visitors and for gardeners to grow vegetables. A groundhog has recently destroyed some 95 lettuces nearly ready for harvest as well as other plants. Scott made a motion that Jim seconded that the SC secure the services of a professional who has represented to us that captured groundhogs will be safely and humanely relocated consistent with laws and regulations. This professional has done similar work for Bartram’s Garden. The motion was unanimously approved. • <u>RR weed clearing.</u> From prior experience with the type of woody weeds found in the CSX right of way area, Scott recommends using Roundup over rye. Responding to concerns that Roundup might affect the garden, Scott explained the Roundup stays in the soil for 45 days before breaking down and does not enter the water table because it doesn’t attach to soil particles. Roundup takes two 	<p>Lois will send an email immediately to all gardeners describing the plan and asking for their cooperation.</p> <p>Lois will make the request to CSX and notify gardeners that rye seeds are available for use in their plots this fall.</p>

	<p>weeks or so to kill plants. Spraying should be done in early spring before any garden planting occurs. The decision was made to ask CSX to trim weeds this fall and spray Roundup in March as weeds are emerging.</p>	
<p>Committee Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>City Harvest</u>. Linda reported that the Garden has so far donated 823 lbs. • <u>Workday & Post-Workday Supervision & Lunch</u>. The lists of pre-workday and workday chores will be posted on the Web. Margie is coordinating this time as Maja/Scott will be away. Need to know which plot leases are expiring so that any remaining clearing can be assigned on the workday. Scott suggested that everyone leaving the plot be asked to roll up and security-tie the fencing. Margie asked for volunteers to overwinter a hibiscus in their home. • <u>Task Force to Review Garden Rules</u>. Carol reviewed a list of five 'easy fixes' to the garden rules and then several more that need discussion. The five changes essentially require editing to reflect current practice or clarifying language and relate to dogs and pets, handling trash and compost, the weekly chore responsibilities, waiting list sign-up procedure, and vandalism or damage to property. Changes to the rules need to be voted on in two successive meetings. 	<p>Lois will purchase workday supplies as needed and also send email reminders to all gardeners about the mandatory workday, special emails to gardeners who have missed one or more workdays, and notification of clean out date to gardeners whose leases expire, including Waitlist Plantings. Jim will contact gardener for plot J-08 to see if she intends to keep gardening. He will also circulate a list of expiring leases before the workday. Carol will get veggie burgers and hot dogs for the workday lunch.</p> <p>These suggested changes will be incorporated into a new draft that will be circulated to the SC for a vote at the next meeting.</p>
<p>Old business (reported by Lois via email following the meeting)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Electrical Improvements</u>. These have been completed. • <u>Eight new sprinkler heads</u> have been installed in the Parkside Plantings; cost \$985. • <u>Brick Pylon Repair</u>. Lois has names of two masons. • <u>No Smoking Signage</u>. These have been installed at both gates. • <u>Gardener Concerns</u>. One has cleaned up their plot, the other has been sent a certified letter with 3 wk. deadline of October 13. After routine monthly Plot Patrol, 36 gardeners were sent notices regarding need to weed plots, paths, and so on. • <u>Age-friendly gardens</u>. Two site visits to age-friendly community gardens have been completed. A director from a third will visit our garden on Friday for 'consultation.' • <u>New procedure for reimbursements from the Garden</u>. All requests will now be reviewed by two people. • <u>Follow up on Street Scene 2014</u>. A follow-up evaluation meeting 	<p>Lois will ask the masons for bids and circulate their feedback for an email decision to hire or wait for Park Service.</p> <p>Mady Prowler and Lois will continue to gather information about possibilities and may convene a group of older gardeners and neighbors to decide what might work best.</p>

	<p>was held last week; plans are to repeat the contest next year. Joan and Lois were charged with modifying the Judging Sheet and Criteria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Offsite storage for select tools</u>. Chris asks whether these could be safely and securely stored in the tool shed or whether a gardener should be identified who can store them. 	
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory Fall Work day: Saturday, November 1, 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM • Next Steering Committee Meeting, Wednesday, November 5, 6:30 PM. 	

Recorded by Cecily Kihn, Secretary, approved by the Steering Committee November 5, 2014