

Schuylkill River Park Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Markward Recreation Center

Tuesday, October 20, 2015 7:00- 8:30 PM

Minutes Submitted by: Nicole Gortian, Secretary

Present: Maja Bucan/Scott Poethig (I-1), Carol Eaton (E-7), Jane Epstein (G-3), Lois Evans (Chair) (E-6), Christine Guiliano (G-2), Nicole Gortian (J-6), Tom McKeon (D-4), Jim Wells (J-7), Wayne Rosenberger (Treasurer) (E-5) and Linda Zaimis (K-5)

Not Present: Michele Langer/Alan Cohen (C-7)

Recorded by Nicole Gortian, Secretary.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Responsible Party/ Timeline
Call to order & Approval of Minutes	Approval of Minutes of October 15 Steering Committee Meeting moved by Christine Guiliano, seconded by Jane Epstein.	Motion was unanimously approved. Nicole Gortian will post on website and garden BB & notify gardeners.
Treasurer's Report & Discussion of Revised Categories	Wayne Rosenberger presented October Treasurer's Report. Reports reviewed and discussed. Linda Zaimis moved approval, seconded by Scott Poethig. Wayne reported that CCRA has begun preliminary work to audit and align the SRPCG financial report with that of CCRA; he will meet with staff to review and confirm detail.	Motion was unanimously approved.
Chair Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on One Riverside: No further major disruptions to the garden are expected except when they start installing the floors; the crane will need to swing over a portion of the garden for short periods of time, necessitating evacuation. This is expected to start in late November. • Hansberry Garden: Members of the board of the Hansberry Garden & Community Garden have asked to visit and meet with us for advice re: organizational and daily operations matters. Lois has offered them a range of possible meeting times. • Quarry Fines: The contractor we have used in the past no longer delivers to Philadelphia. Lois Evans found a new contractor that is slightly more expensive. Quarry fines have been ordered and will be delivered on Thursday, October 22. • Street Scenes: This was the second year of this program; participation was lower than last year. At the debriefing meeting, a new model was proposed: The committee would identify beautiful plantings, notify the home owner via a note through the door/blue ribbon in the window box that they had been nominated for a 	<p>Lois Evans will continue to summarize the updates provided and send through iContact.</p> <p>Lois will notify the Steering Committee when the meeting is scheduled so available members can join.</p> <p>Lois will coordinate/meet with the contractor for the delivery.</p>

	<p>Street Scenes award (with option to opt out of the competition); neighbors would be invited to vote for winners in several categories via text [or Instagram posting].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC Member and Leadership Planning Needs: At least two to three new members are needed to fill vacancies beginning in March, 2016. 	<p>Current SC Members to try to identify potential new members during October 24 workday.</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCRA Request: As part of its membership drive, CCRA would like to invite neighbors who apply for the Garden’s public plot lottery to consider joining the residents’ association. After discussion, it was agreed that we would offer instead to add CCRA membership information to the email announcements we send to applicants after the drawing. • Age Friendly Initiative survey results: There was a 33% response rate to the survey re: interest in options to begin to address intergenerational gardening needs. For each of the three options offered—small plots, shared leases, a garden buddy system—interests were nearly evenly dispersed at either end of the continuum, indicating that no one solution would suit every gardener. Further, although many expressed interest in small plots, no respondents indicated readiness for one for next year. After discussion, Carol Eaton moved, seconded by Linda Zaimis, to convert plot A-03, a regular 10X20 plot being vacated this fall, to two 10X10 public plots, thus, facilitating the option for future conversion to several small plots near a water source. It was further moved by Scott Poethig and seconded by Wayne Rosenberger to keep plot B-02 as two 10X10 plots, thus, adding one additional regular plot to the pool." 	<p>Lois to follow up with CCRA board member.</p> <p>Both motions were approved unanimously. Jim Wells to edit the spread sheet and Lois Evans to edit the garden map to reflect these changes.</p> <p>Lois will remind gardeners when leases are distributed that sharing a lease for a single plot is an option.</p> <p>Lois Evans suggested that the work of the Age Friendly Task Force has served to raise awareness about needs of older or less able gardeners and the opportunities for SRPCG to serve as a model for the region in its response. Thus, options and ideas that have arisen from this work should remain on the Steering Committee’s agenda going forward.</p>
<p>Committee Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Harvest: To date we have donated 1,010 lbs. • Parkside Plantings: Hibiscus plants have found a home for the winter. Roses will be sunk into the compost bin to shelter the roots during the winter. Sweeper has been replaced via warranty. Joan Wells recommended a reduction in budget request for the 2017 FY from current allocation of \$1000 to \$500. 	<p>Jane Epstein & Tom McKuen to explore option for higher end sweeper that can better withstand heavy use to recommend for next replacement. Wayne to make a note of budget request for preparing the 2017 budget due in March.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workday Organization & Supervision: Linda Zaimis volunteered to assist Carol Eaton on Saturday and for the following year. • Plot Assignments: There are currently 53 on the waiting list. The issue of waiting list management was raised, i.e., should there be a limit on number of years a waiting list gardener can defer as the long list is a potential deterrent to potential applicants. 	Jim Wells will examine the record and bring a proposal for discussion to the November meeting.
Old business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden History Project: Maja Bucan reported that initiating the video history project requires a minimum commitment of \$1000; thus, more funds, either from grants or the SRPCG budget, will be required to begin this component of the project. In the interim, a list of potential interviewees has been identified and Maja has drafted a letter that she will send to them to solicit information and interest in participating. She has also learned that some historical materials about the garden are stored in an Archive at Temple and at the Philadelphia Historical Society. A plan will be further developed once information is collected. 	
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Steering Committee Meeting & Fall Events: Fall Workday October 24; Clear Out by retiring gardeners October 31; next Steering Committee Meeting Tuesday, November 17 at 7pm. 	