

**APPROVED**

**Schuykill River Park Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Markward Recreation Center**

**Wednesday, September 3. 6:30- 8:00 PM**

**Minutes Submitted by:** Linda Zaimis, Alternate 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), Chris Henningsen (E-2) , Michele Langer/Alan Cohen (C-7), Jim Wells (J-7), Linda Zaimis (K-5)

**Not Present:** Cecily Kihn (Secretary) (K-3), Nicole Gortian (J-6), Wayne Rosenberger (Treasurer)( E-5)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Responsible Party/ Timeline
Call to order, Introductions, & Approval of Minutes	Minutes of the August 6, 2014, meeting reviewed. Motion to approve by Alan, second by Carol. Minutes approved unanimously by voice vote.	Cecily will post on website and garden BB.
Treasurer’s Report	Treasurer unable to attend meeting; available report was incomplete.	Review deferred, pending updated version which Lois will request.
Chair’s Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>CCRA Street Scene Competition Party</u>. Our Garden will host the Party on Sunday, 9/21 from 4-6pm. There were more than 50 entries in the competition. Light refreshments will be provided.</li> <li>• <u>PHS Gardening and Greening Awards</u>. The award ceremony will be held on Saturday, 9/20 at the Navy Yard.</li> <li>• <u>South Gate Repair</u>. Repairs to the gate to allow a padlock without using a chain were made by Bill the Iron Man at no charge.</li> <li>• <u>Electrical Improvements</u>. Derek Freres secured a more detailed estimate from MLK Electrical. The work is scheduled.</li> <li>• <u>Brick Pylon Repair</u>. Derek informed us that Fairmount Parks and Recreation has agreed to fix the pylons but the work has not yet been scheduled and it is a very low priority for them.</li> <li>• <u>No Smoking Signage</u>. Lois and Alan researched obtaining pre-made signs for our gates. However, none are acceptable and we will need custom signs made to conform to existing signage at the entrances.</li> <li>• <u>Gardener Concerns</u>. Lois followed up with gardeners without expected community participation.</li> </ul>	<p>Lois, Margie. Carol and Alan will host. All SC members and judges are invited to attend.</p> <p>Carol and Alan will attend. Lois will circulate PHS communication re: times when received.</p> <p>Lois will send an email to the gardeners to see if anyone has bricklaying skills to do the repairs on or before the next work day on Nov 1. If no one volunteers, we can get an estimate from a professional bricklayer.</p> <p>Lois has requested an estimate for the custom signage and will follow up.</p> <p>Lois will send a reminder email to emphasize the importance of attending the final work day or completing a task before/immediately after 11/1.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>PECO Grant Opportunity</u>. Lois reviewed the grant material and recommended we not pursue this year.</li> <li>• <u>Railroad Contact</u>. Lois received a positive response from an official of the CSX Railroad after requesting a meeting to discuss weed removal in the lot adjoining the West Garden fence.</li> </ul>	<p>There was consensus.</p> <p>Lois will follow up.</p>
Committee Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>City Harvest</u>. Linda reported that the Garden has so far donated 619 lbs. An alternate drop off site for produce is St. John's Hospice at 1221 Race St.</li> <li>• <u>Education</u>. Nicole has set up a Workshop on Weed Identification at the garden on Sept 17 at 6:30 pm. Anna Herman from PHS Master Gardeners will lead the workshop. Nicole is also working on obtaining a speaker to talk about square foot gardening at the Annual Meeting. Scott spoke with Tracy Byford, who manages the Penn Greenhouse and Biopond gardens, and she would be willing to give us a guided tour of the Botanical Gardens/Biopond.</li> <li>• <u>Facilities</u>. A new off-site storage location for larger power tools is needed for next year. The leak at the East pump appears to be under control with turning off the valve after use.</li> <li>• <u>Plot Use</u>. Chris contacted gardeners with out-of-control mint in their plots and reminded them to remove the mint. Two plots were identified as severely neglected.</li> <li>• <u>Waiting List Plantings</u>. One of the Wait List plot holders has moved and offered her veggies to City Harvest for the remainder of the growing season.</li> <li>• <u>Waiting/Transfer/Plot Assignment Lists</u>. Currently 40 on the Waiting List</li> <li>• <u>Annual Harvest Potluck</u>. The dinner was held on August 17. A good time was had by all who attended.</li> <li>• <u>Workday &amp; Post-Workday Supervision</u>.</li> <li>• <u>Task Force to Review Garden Rules</u>. Michelle, Chris and Carol will meet on Sept 17 to review existing rules. They will consider the rule regarding when a name can go on the waiting list as part of this process.</li> </ul>	<p>Nicole or Alan will introduce Ms. Herman.</p> <p>Nicole will add the tour to the Education Survey for the Annual Meeting to gauge interest.</p> <p>Lois and Chris will pursue new location.</p> <p>Chris will continue to follow up on the mint; Lois will contact the additional plot holders.</p> <p>Christine and Linda will maintain the space and clean it out at the end of the season.</p> <p>We will consider holding it later in the season next year to avoid conflict with summer vacations so that more people can attend. Maya, Lois and Margie will meet to identify tasks for the final Work Day, Nov 1.</p> <p>Suggestions will be presented at the next steering committee meeting.</p>
Old Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Age friendly garden options</u>. Mady Prowler has agreed to join Lois in visiting the Nationalities Senior Garden for older adults in North Philadelphia.</li> </ul>	<p>Lois is scheduling a time.</p>
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Philadelphia Hospitality Open House &amp; Garden Tour</u>. The Hospitality Center of Philadelphia has invited PHS Community Gardens to participate in their open</li> </ul>	<p>Linda, Carol, and Lois will welcome visitors.</p>

	<p>house this year. Our Garden and 5 others, mostly in Center City, will participate in the walking tour of gardens to be held on September 27 from 10:30 – 2:30.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Request from neighbor to use the Garden.</u> Lois received a request from a Garden neighbor to use the Garden as the site of an engagement proposal on a late Saturday evening. However, our agreement with the city requires the Garden be closed from dusk to dawn so we cannot accommodate his request.</li> <li>• Next Steering Committee Meetings, October 1 , 6:30 PM.</li> </ul>	<p>Lois will follow up with the requestor.</p>
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*Recorded by Linda Zaimis, Alternate Secretary, approved by the Steering Committee October 1, 2014*