

APPROVED

Schuylkill River Park Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Markward Recreation Center

Wednesday, February 4, 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), Chris Henningsen (E-2), Michele Langer/Alan Cohen (C-7), Jim Wells (J-7), Linda Zaimis (K-5)

Not Present: Nicole Gortian, Christine Guiliano (G-2), Wayne Rosenberger (Treasurer) (E-5)

Recorded by Cecily Kihn, Secretary. Approved by the Steering Committee pending for March, 2015

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Responsible Party/ Timeline
Call to order & Approval of Minutes	Minutes of the December 3, 2014, meeting reviewed. Motion to approve by Jim, second by Alan. Minutes approved unanimously by voice vote.	Cecily will post on website and garden BB.
Treasurer's Report & Discussion of Revised Categories	Lois presented two reports from Wayne: December and January. For next year, Wayne will develop a sub ledger for these reports that show more precisely what is included in the categories. Motion to approve the January report was made by Linda and seconded by Carol. Motion was unanimously approved. Approval of the December report was deferred pending explanation of the honorarium charge.	Lois will ask Wayne to provide more information and the proposed FY2016 budget for March meeting.
Planning for next garden year	<p>Nominees for Steering Committee. Jane Epstein (G-3), Tom McKeon (D-4), and Tom Tierney (D-1) have agreed to have their names put forward for the Steering Committee. Although not able to serve on the SC, Michi Tashjian (L-01) and Stephan Kaufer (J-5) are willing to work on projects. Jane would like to take over Chris's jobs on Plot Use & Facilities Management.</p> <p>There's still a need for someone to chair the Public Plots Lottery, although one option is to absorb it within a Waiting List/Transfer List/Lottery Committee. Maja said she'll be happy to supervise the Workdays through July but she emphasized that it's important to have someone take over who has more years left on their garden lease. Lois observed that having a Co-Chair would make the transition to a new Chair more seamless, as there is a lot to learn. A new Secretary is also needed. Committee chairs and members need not be on the Steering Committee.</p> <p>Street Scenes Planning/Garden involvement. This year in addition to the contest among gardeners, there will be one among amateur</p>	Joan and Lois are charged with revising the judges' scoring

	<p>photographers. CCRA wants to have two workshops this year on window boxes and tree gardens. Maggie Mund will ask Grace Wicks and Pure Garden Design to speak at the workshops. The education committee will work with Maggie to set them up.</p>	<p>forms, based on input from judges last year. Need to get more people to the awards ceremony; this year, the Eagles' schedule will be consulted before scheduling</p>
<p>Chair Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Updated Guidelines & Rules</u>: These will go out with the new leases. Lease agreements and cover letters have also been updated. • <u>Communications</u>: Four people who received Garden Book gifts sent thank you notes. • <u>Speaker at Annual Meeting</u>: Elisa Ruse-Esposito, Urban Agriculture Program Coordinator at the City Department of Parks & Recreation, will be the speaker on square foot gardening at the annual meeting. • <u>Community Gardens Network</u>: Elise indicated that she is documenting all the community gardens in the city's parks for P&R. She wants to put together a Community Garden Network and is thinking that some of the more mature gardens could serve as mentors to the newer gardens. • <u>Award ceremony at Flower Show</u>: Linda and Lois went to Harrisburg to receive the award and blue ribbon from the Governor's wife & PHS President. There will be a repeat performance at the Flower Show on March 2 6:30-7:30 pm for which two volunteers are needed. • <u>Spring Garden Preparation</u>: • <u>Ladybug Release party</u>: This is scheduled for May 21. Shelby can't be in charge of this anymore but will coach Jacoba Zaring who will take it over. The idea of planning some Work Day activities specifically for children was introduced. 	<p>Lois has agreed to tour Elise at SRPCG in the Spring.</p> <p>Margie and Scott volunteered. Lois will register for the SRPCG. Lois will also check with Nicole and Christine; if needed, Carol and Chris agreed to serve as alternates.</p> <p>Lois will email CSX about spraying as soon as the weeds are up and green and will schedule plumber & compost for April 1. Lois will mention this idea to Jacoba and also seek other families with young children who might want to participate on this committee.</p>
<p>Committee Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>City Harvest</u>: Linda signed up for the mandatory meeting on 2/18 and for 8 of the 10 mandatory volunteer work hours. • <u>Education</u>: Alan mentioned the talk on square foot gardening at the Annual Meeting. Lois has edited the education survey and also asked permission to add "gardening smart" as a topic choice; this would focus on how to garden using good body mechanics for less physical stress, all related to the age-friendly task force that she's working on with Mady Prowler. 	<p>Linda will decide where to post the new City Harvest sign. Linda will send out the email to sign up for volunteer work slots. SC members can sign up and let Linda know.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Facilities</u>: Chris reported that one of the carts is cracked and has a flat tire and recommends buying a new cart and some tires. There may be other minor replacements needed. • <u>Garden Chores</u>: Linda will take this over from Cecily. • <u>Public Plots Lottery</u>: Margie asked SC members to post lottery plot announcements around the neighborhood and let her know where they've been posted. • <u>Waiting List Plantings</u>: Guiliano • <u>Waiting/Transfer/Plot Assignment Lists</u>: Jim is ready to assign 5 plots. 	<p>Chris will do the research on replacements so that everything is ordered at once. He'll also look into ordering from Rittenhouse Hardware at 20th and Pine.</p> <p>Cecily will prepare a weekly chore list sign-up sheet for the annual meeting.</p> <p>Cecily will laminate two lottery plot announcements and post them on the garden gates.</p> <p>Lois will talk to Christine about leases for the waiting list. Because of an issue that Jim raised with the waiting list, it was decided that the initials of people on the waiting list will be posted on the web, in addition to the Garden Bulletin Board, so that potential gardeners can keep track of where they are on the list. This will be done after all the available plots have been assigned this spring.</p>
Old business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Web Management task force</u>: Lois asked for 2 SC members to review and make recommendations for placement and update of materials. Scott volunteered. • <u>Status of One Riverside project</u>: Lois reported CCRA's view that the company is actively seeking buyers and will probably not proceed with construction until a certain percentage of the condo units are pre-sold. 	<p>Lois will communicate with Sally (web manager) and Scott re: specifics; Scott will report back to the SC re: any major changes to be recommended.</p>
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Update on Biochar report forward to SC by gardener</u>: Scott reported that Biochar is charcoal which when added to soil is reputed to do great things, but the effect depends on how good your soil is to begin with. If the soil is poor and compacted, then Biochar will help; if the soil is good already, then it may have no effect. Biochar <u>is</u> good, however, for keeping carbon out of the atmosphere. So the bottom line is that putting Biochar in the soil helps the atmosphere and may or may not help your soil. • Lois asked the SC to review draft updates to the SC job descriptions for discussion at the March meeting. • Mailings for 2015 lease agreements assembled by the SC. • Next Steering Committee Meeting: Wednesday, March 4 	<p>No action recommended at this time.</p> <p>Retiring members should bring their committee handbooks to the next meeting.</p>

Approved by Steering Committee March 4, 2015