

**Schuylkill River Park Community Garden
Steering Committee Meeting
Markward Recreation Center
July 02, 2008**

Present:

Derek Freres (A-1), Chair
Linda Zaimis, Recording Secretary (B-4)
Hal Lehman, Treasurer (C-3)
Selwa Baroodi (E-4)
Chris Henningsen (F-3)
Seth Levi (J-7)
Robert Reisley (D-1)
Doug Ross (H-6)
Amy Shain (D-5)
Gerri Spilka (B-3)
George Trotman (B-4)

Not Present:

Joyce Frye (H-6)
Al Kelman (J-6)
Bonnie Schmelz (J-1)

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

Rob made a motion to approve the June minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

The current balance is \$1,457.50 with an unallocated contingency fund of \$703.00 for a total of \$2160.50 left to spend. Hal prepared a donors list and a form for a thank you letter receipt. Gerri made a motion to accept the letter. Seconded and approved.

CCRA Office Staff Change / President Invite:

CCRA has hired a new business manager, Janet Heuman. CCRA president, Vivian Seltzer, and her husband have been invited to visit the garden on July 20 for light refreshments.

Park lighting:

Seth reported that the timers are working now and if the Schuylkill River Park Trail gets a new circuit then the Garden might be able to get more lights. A proposal is being sent to Anna Verna.

Website:

Derek will make the website public and notify the gardeners.

Solicitation to Gardeners:

Gerri made a motion to send a solicitation letter to the gardeners and members of the waiting list asking for donations for the Garden Maintenance

Fund. Donations will be sent to a P.O. Box that has been rented for that purpose only. Seconded and approved.

Derek will send an e-mail to the gardeners about the plan to replace the plot boards on a 6-year cycle as gardeners rotate out of their plots.

Gerri will draft a letter disclosing all maintenance issues and approximate time frames for dealing with the issues (plot boards are first) and circulate it to the Steering Committee.

Doug reported that the Document Consistency committee is planning to meet next week.

Selwa reported that nine cubic yards of mushroom compost was delivered. It will be used around the Parkside Plantings as a soil amendment and to suppress weeds.

Gerri made a motion to suspend, for this year, the removal of gardeners from the Garden for plot maintenance issues. They can be removed for growing items from the "do not grow" list. Seconded and approved. (One opposing vote.)

Complaints / Grievances:

Elizabeth Savage asked for a correction to the May minutes that she filed one grievance, not grievances. Rob made a motion to note the correction in the July minutes that the "s" should be removed from "grievances". Seconded and approved. Elizabeth stated that she does not think the Resolution Report fully resolved her grievance and asked that the report not be sent to the gardeners. Seth made a motion that because the Steering Committee had already approved the Resolution Report at the June meeting that it go out as is to the gardeners. Seconded and approved.

Facilities report:

George reported that the three new rat bait boxes have been filled. George, Chris and Linda did an inventory of the tools and recommend that no new tools need to be purchased. One more 4-wheeled garden cart will be purchased. Seth requested that lava rocks be purchased for the older grill and Chris will look at the newer grill to make sure it is operable.

Friends of SRP Board Member access:

Derek reported that FSRP has asked to use the water pumps in the Garden for their needs in the Park. Doug made a motion to give the FSRP Board members the combination to the garden and a copy of the Rules & Guidelines. Seconded and approved.

Derek reported that access has also been granted to The Philadelphia School.

Garden Opt-In Directory:

Derek developed a Web form for the Gardeners to fill in if they wish to participate in a Garden Directory. It will include the Gardeners' name(s), plot number, e-mail and home addresses and phone number. The Gardeners will be able to fill in all or a portion of the information. The Directory will be posted via e-mail to the Gardeners but will not be posted on the Bulletin Board. Gerri made a motion to proceed with the Directory. Seconded and approved.

Plot Fees:

Derek received about 25 responses to his letter to the Gardeners regarding the plan to increase plot fees. Less than 5 indicated they were opposed to the fee increase. Seth made a motion to proceed with the plot fee increase. Seconded and approved. Vivian Seltzer will be asked to get CCRA Board approval to increase the plot fees and the sending of the solicitation letter.

Q&A Sessions:

Seth made a motion to invite all gardeners and waiting list members to an informal meeting at the garden to keep them informed about garden issues. Seconded and approved. Derek and the Steering Committee will hold two question and answer sessions, one on a weekday and one on a weekend day, open to all gardeners, to discuss plot board replacements as well as any other garden topics.

School Groups:

Public school and day care groups are welcome to come to the garden to pick herbs from the public herb garden. An education committee will be set up to explore potential areas in the garden where the children can participate in gardening. Two potential sites are the propagation bed and the area near the plum tree next to the propagation bed.

Compost Committee:

Linda, Seth and Chris will explore ways to utilize the compost bins more effectively so that all gardeners can have access to the ready compost.

Wood Mulch:

Research has shown that wood mulch is harmful as it harbors diseases and pests. Amy made a motion to propose a new rule for the 2009 season that wood bark mulch is not to be used in the garden plots. Seconded and approved.

Pot Luck Dinner:

Amy will organize this year's pot luck dinner.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Linda Zaimis,
Recording Secretary