

Schuylkill River Park Community Garden 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes

March 29, 2016, 7 pm

Trinity Center for Urban Life, 22nd & Spruce Streets, Philadelphia, PA

Attendance: 48 Gardeners & guests

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Responsible Party/Timeline
Welcome to New Gardeners Reception & Refreshments		Gardeners had the opportunity to sign up for a Chores Week and to volunteer for hosting a City Harvest plant, to serve as a Garden Mentor, or for a number of projects & committees.
Call To Order	Lois Evans, 2015-16 Chair, called the meeting to order & welcomed new and returning Gardeners. She also announced that the water has been turned on.	
Introduction of New Gardeners	Nineteen New & Returning Gardeners were introduced by Jim Wells.	New gardeners are to attend one of three orientation sessions in the garden.
March 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes	Motion to accept made by Joan Wells, seconded by Bob Weiss.	Approved by voice vote.
Garden Chair Report	<p>Lois described a very successful 2015 year. She noted the big change with our “new neighbor to the north”, One Riverside. There have been regular communications as to the status of the construction and notices have been sent to gardeners.</p> <p>Lois noted that the garden won the PHS Blue Ribbon Award. Members of the community often visit the garden, including teachers who bring their classes. Artists are also attracted to the garden.</p> <p>Lois discussed the garden’s participation in the Street Scenes Neighborhood Project, involving window boxes. Gardeners served as judges and a workshop was conducted on planting and photography.</p> <p>Lois discussed the Age Friendly Gardening Project. It is a worldwide program. The committee looked at ideas for making the garden more age friendly. Mady Prowler assisted visiting different gardens for ideas. A workshop on ergonomics was conducted as were focus groups and a survey of gardeners. Although there were a number of ideas generated, the steering committee took a limited approach for now that included (1) encouraging plot sharing and (2) division of plots to make more small plots available.</p> <p>2016 goals include consideration of possibly joining the Farm Philly Community</p>	Gardeners are to let the steering committee know if there is interest in moving forward with more age friendly ideas.

	<p>Gardens Network. There is a meeting in mid-April. Discussion of the 30th anniversary will take place. A decentralized governance structure is being implemented by the steering committee with a view to lessening the duties of the Chair. We will be increasing communication with the CCRA, including having a liaison from board and Wayne Rosenberger attend CCRA meetings as a garden representative. The garden now has its own bank account separate from CCRA. Work must be done to repair the tool shed and improve the structure. The steering committee worked on a garden history project. Maja Bucan will give a presentation on the project.</p>	
Treasurer's Report	<p>Treasurer Wayne Rosenberger presented the 2016 budget, 2016 projections and the 2017 budget. The CCRA and garden accounts have been reconciled and are now in sync. This is why the 2016 budget numbers are different than previously presented. The 2016 projections include projected donations to the history project and an estimated cost to repair the tool shed.</p>	
City Harvest Report	<p>Linda Zaimis, who has managed the Garden's participation in City Harvest for the past several years, oriented Gardeners to this collaboration among PHS, the Philadelphia prison system and SHARE. Last year the garden contributed 1,107 pounds. City Harvest has supplied seeds available for gardeners at the meeting and more will be available after the work day. Donated vegetables can be accepted Tuesday through Sunday.</p>	<p>Gardeners are encouraged to host one plant that Linda will plant by May 14, 2016 and Linda will harvest the plant.</p>
Community Chores Report and Sign-up Reminder	<p>Linda Zaimis explained the weekly chores program. The chores are explained in the handout and are posted on the bulletin board. A chore week runs from Monday to Sunday. Garbage is to be put at the curb on Mondays rather than Sundays if the Monday is a city holiday.</p>	<p>Gardeners are to sign up for a work week.</p>
Parkside Planting Report	<p>Joan Wells discussed the park side plantings. They are part of the Schuylkill River Park. Joan thanked the steering committee for purchasing a sweeper which helps keep the walkway clear. Phil Lahaie (wait list member in 2015, new gardener 2016) has been very helpful sweeping. Dick Atkins donates the plants round the cistern in memory of his mother. 25 new plants were purchased in 2015. They were just planted when Bartram's showed up with additional perennials. Dick Atkins donates plants around the cistern. The fig tree is productive but people steal figs. The city parks crew generously put down compost. The irrigation system is working well. Joan noted the efforts of Alison Rulon-Miller (formerly Parkside Plantings Chair) who still helps with the parkside plantings.</p>	<p>Gardeners are encouraged to help with the sweeping and other tasks</p>
Garden Education Project and Survey Reminder	<p>Allen Cohen asked gardeners to complete the survey handout identifying possible programs. It is important to attend the programs so gardeners should select survey choices they would want to attend. Allen believes the successful programs</p>	

	last year included Scott Poethig's tomato presentation, square foot gardening and the street scenes window box program.	
Children's Activities/Ladybug Release Party	Jacoba Zaring explained the children's activities committee. She noted that the ladybug release party is not just for kids. It will be held May 19, 2016.	
Garden History Project	Maja Bucan discussed the garden history project. She briefly reviewed the history of the garden and noted that 5 current gardeners were present in the beginning. The committee reached out to about 20 founders and requested answers to questions, old photos and other materials. The plan is produce a Ken Burns style video. Gardeners were encouraged to make donations. Wayne Rosenberger donated \$500.00. Lois noted that the committee is considering a reception with founders present or a historical placard for the garden.	
Election of 2016 Steering Committee	Lois Evans presented the slate of nominees to serve on the Garden Steering Committee for 2015-16. No further nominations were made from the floor.	Al Kelman moved and Phil Lahaie seconded the motion to accept the proposed slate. The motion was carried by voice vote.
Announcement of 2016 Committee Leadership; Call for Volunteers	Lois announced Garden Committee and Task Force leadership for this year and asked for assistance from volunteers.	Volunteer Gardeners are especially needed for website management backup; rose, iris and herb bed maintenance; and for mentoring of new gardeners.
Thanks to outgoing Steering Committee & Volunteer Gardeners	The following Steering Committee members are rotating off this year: Lois Evans (Steering Committee Chair); Maja Bucanan/Scott Poethig (Workday Organization, Garden History, Community Events, Website). The special contributions of Joan Wells (Parkside Planting), Sally Frazza (web management, herb garden) & Jacoba Zaring (Children's Activities/Ladybug Release Party), and Mady Prowler (Age Friendly Task Force) were also acknowledged.	Gardeners acknowledged this service.
Reminder of Important 2016 Dates	Lois reminded gardeners of the required work days in the Garden-- Saturdays, April 9, July 16, and November 9 from 9 am to 1 pm. The Ladybug Release Party will be on May 19 th at 5pm and the Harvest Supper will be September 10 at 5pm. All these dates are on the website.	
Program	Gardening 101: Lessons I have learned from 150 ft ² Our speaker, Scott Poethig, is a professor in the Biology department at Penn who studies plant development and teaches a course on The Biology of Food. Scott says, "I used to farm 5 acres of corn in New Jersey, but SCRPCG was my first experience with 'small-scale, intensive agriculture'—i.e., gardening."	

Minutes Recorded by Jim Wells, 2016 Steering Committee Member on behalf of Nicole Gortian, Secretary.

Minutes approved by Gardeners at March 28, 2017 Annual Garden Meeting