

APPROVED

Schuylkill River Park Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 7, 2014. 6:30- 8:00 PM

Markward Recreation Center

Minutes Submitted by: Cecily Kihn, Recording 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)
- Cecily Kihn (K-3)
- Michele Langer/Alan Cohen (C-7)
- Jim Wells (J-7)
- Linda Zaimis (K-5)

Not Present:

- 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 April 2, 2014 meeting reviewed and approved ff. Motion by Jim, second by Carol.	Cecily will post on website and garden BB.
Treasurer's Report	Lois presented Wayne's report. At end of April, \$4290 remains in Operating Budget and \$5942 in Capital Budget with some bills to pay.	
Chair's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lois Evans handed out updates to Steering Committee (SC) notebooks • Gardener Sally Frazza now manages website updates although Derek still owns the site; updates have been timely and new photography appreciated. Need another person to work with Sally as a backup. Scott suggested sending out email request for a volunteer who can work with the site's software. SC needs to exercise oversight about website content. • Conestoga Garden Club in northern Chester County wants a tour of the garden at 2 pm on May 12. • The message Lois sent to gardeners regarding the effects of the recent storm seemed appropriate. • Lois and Christine attended April 29 CCRA information meeting about the Dranoff development north of garden. Dranoff now considering using 21' of setback from north side as a community garden for residents. • Sally Frazza will continue overseeing herb garden but requested volunteers. 2 	<p>Lois will send request with help from Sally for wording the message. Lois and Carol will screen for the SC.</p> <p>Carol volunteered to host these guests; Lois will make the connection.</p> <p>In case of future storms that flood the garden, a similar approach will be used.</p>

	<p>people on waiting list have responded: Missy Randolph and Barbara Helpern. Lois took herbs to garden today.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 instance where visitors were in the garden at night and gate was unlocked. Toolshed and south gate have also been found unlocked a couple of times. Lock not set at zero. • 6 have volunteered to be Garden Mentors. • All but 3 new gardeners attended orientation. • Non-waitlist neighbors have volunteered for watering/weeding assistance. 	<p>Lois will send general reminder to gardeners. Margie suggested putting a sign on the shed asking people to lock it before they leave. Lois will draft the reminder.</p> <p>Lois will advise volunteers that it's acceptable to place small notice on our bulletin board.</p>
Committee Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>City Harvest</u>-Linda reported that 21 Gardeners volunteered to "host" a plant in their plot for City Harvest. Distribution of plants postponed until May 17 because of cold weather. City Harvest volunteers now a subgroup in iContact. • <u>Education</u>- Michele attended required program at Rutgers Ag Extension. Not appropriate for City Harvest scale. Alan reported that ~18 people attended Windowbox workshop, mostly non-SRPCG gardeners. Possibilities for future workshops discussed: (1) raised bed/square foot gardening (Penn State Master Gardeners); (2) late gardening (into fall); (3) weed identification (good to have before July workday); (4) All About Tomatoes (Maja volunteered Scott for this). • <u>Facilities</u>- Chris will explore umbrella + 2 grill covers for purchase, then approach Rittenhouse Hardware to order for us. Margie mentioned importance of getting an umbrella with a strong, easy to use opening/closing mechanism. Lois asked if we can clean up the watering can area. Also, toolshed has excess tools and the inventory needs updating. • <u>Garden Chores</u>- Cecily reported that slots are filled. Carol has noticed that recycling buckets aren't returned to garden on Monday. • <u>Ladybug Release Party</u>- scheduled for May 22nd. Shelby Fraser will host again. 10 adults+ 10 children so far but will probably get up to 20 or 30. Need volunteer to man the grill and cupcake decorating station, hand out scavenger hunt packages. Leftover food supplies (napkins, condiments, etc.) were identified for use at the party. • <u>Parkside Plantings</u>-Joan will replace a couple of plants. Lois pointed out that hibiscus and some other potted plants in cistern area need replacing. 	<p>Michele and Alan will work with Nicole to schedule square foot gardening workshop next, then All About Tomatoes.</p> <p>Chris to follow up re purchases. Suggestion to "cull" watering cans and to consider storing some on a sturdy pole near pump at front of garden. SC members to observe which cans are most used, toss damaged or less desirable cans as a first step. Maja and Jim will work with Chris to complete inventory and, in the process, rid the shed of old, no longer needed tools.</p> <p>Cecily to add to chores reminder message about returning recycling buckets on Monday as first chore.</p> <p>Maja, Alan/Michele volunteered. Lois will connect Shelby with Maja/Michele and Carol; Maja will help divide the tasks, Carol will discuss food/supply status.</p> <p>Lois will approach same Gardener who donated hibiscus last year about interest in replacement.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Plot use</u>-Chris reported that 9 plots show no activity so far. One additional plot became available when a gardener relinquished early, and has been filled from the Waiting List. • <u>Public plots</u>-1 is not yet being gardened. • <u>Waiting list</u>-Christine reported that the final plot has been filled from the backup wait list. Need to give small plots more time to start up because mostly tomatoes are being planted. • <u>Waiting list</u>-Jim reported 35-36 on list. Has reconciled waiting list with distribution list on iContact. Need to consider conflict between garden rules and bylaws on when people can sign up for waiting list. Should public plot holders be treated the same as 6-year gardeners at the end of their term? • <u>Spring Workday</u>-By all accounts, a success! Only 3 gardeners have yet to complete a chore, however there are still remaining tasks. Maja suggested organizing workday differently: (1) delegating oversight responsibilities for certain chores to SC members (2) putting a list of chores to be done before and during workday on website (and/or pasting the list into an email) (3) posting another list of leftover chores afterwards. Gardeners not attending workday will be responsible to notify Maja what tasks have been completed. Gardeners should also be reminded to weed around their plots prior to the workday and to bring gloves and clippers. 	<p>Chris will recheck activity after this weekend, and if still none, will draft an email to Lois for review prior to sending to plotholders, reminding them of this year's deadline of May 15 (NOTE: Garden Rules state May 1, but moved back this year because of late Spring.)</p> <p>Will reconcile All Gardeners list next. Jim referred the group to the conflicting sections in the ByLaws and the Garden Rules. We will consider this for action at a future Steering Committee meeting.</p> <p>Maja will work with Sally to develop and post the lists. Lois will include what to bring and do in iContact message re: the Summer Workday.</p>
Old Business	Scott described the opportunity to apply to USDA to designate garden as "A People's Garden". He has already planted Lincoln tomato seeds in recognition of this designation; seedlings will be ready soon.	Alan moved and Margie seconded the motion to apply for this designation. There was consensus approval for Scott to follow up.
New Business	Next Steering Committee Meeting: informal one (no minutes) June 4, 6:30 PM	

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 4, 2014

Recorded by Cecily Kihn, Recording Secretary Approved by the Steering Committee on May 8, 2014