

Schuylkill River Park Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Markward Recreation Center

Wednesday, May 6, 2015 6:30- 8:00 PM

Minutes Submitted by: Nicole Gortian, Secretary

Present: Scott Poethig (I-1), Carol Eaton (E-7), Jane Epstein (G-3), Lois Evans (Chair) (E-6), Nicole Gortian (J-6), Christine Guiliano (G-2), Michele Langer/Alan Cohen (C-7), Tom McKeon (D-4), Jim Wells (J-7), Linda Zaimis (K-5),

Not Present: Maja Bucan (I-1) and Wayne Rosenberger (Treasurer) (E-5)

Recorded by Nicole Gortian, Secretary.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Responsible Party/ Timeline
Call to order & Approval of Minutes	Approval of Minutes of April 1 Steering Committee Meeting w/minor correction (Alan Cohen moved approval, seconded by Carol Eaton). Motion was unanimously approved.	Nicole Gortian will post on website and garden BB & notify gardeners.
Treasurer's Report & Discussion of Revised Categories	Lois Evans presented the April 2015 and Fiscal Year 2016 proposed budget reports for Wayne Rosenberger. The April 2015 budget was moved for approval by Jim Wells and seconded by Linda Zaimis. Approval of the 2016 budget was tabled until the next month so that Wayne could present it and address questions.	Wayne will present proposed Fiscal Year 2016 budget at June meeting.
Chair Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on One Riverside and plan for ongoing sharing: Six SC members attended a meeting with the Dranoff project group to be briefed on construction plans and discuss questions & concerns. A brief summary of the meeting was prepared & distributed to Gardeners via iContact. There will be regular communications to us from One Riverside. • Street Scenes Competition: We are managing two workshops in support of this. Windowbox Planting Workshop will be on Thursday 5/14 at 6:30pm. The Photography Workshop will be held later (June/July). SC members will also participate in the judging. • Neighborhood Gardens Trust: We have committed to participate in the Community Gardens day on June 20th. We will keep the garden open between 10 am and 3pm and have people at the garden available to answer questions. The Children's Committee is considering offering something as well. • Housekeeping: The garden gates have been found left open (lock 	<p>Lois will send an enhanced version of the information to Nicole who will laminate and post on the bulletin board. Future newsletter updates from the project will also be posted/shared.</p> <p>At the June SC meeting, a few members will be asked to commit to being in the Garden for this event.</p> <p>Lois to send out message through iContact to remind</p>

	<p>hanging open on the gate) and same with tool shed. Also incorrect wagon storage, replacing the manhole cover for the cistern water valve 'upside down and 'picknickers putting food-related trash in cans have already been observed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared Gardening: More than one person can share a plot as long as both people are on the lease. Helping another gardener with watering and so on is not the same as 'shared gardening.' • Observed Rabbits in Garden: At least 3 mature rabbits have been observed, one appears to be tame. Several gardens without fencing are at highest risk of plant damage. • Gardener attendance/participation record to date: Only three gardeners are delinquent on fulfilling the April Work Day obligation. There are also still a few chores that still need to be done. 	<p>gardeners about locking gates, keeping lock in locked position (not hanging open) when unattended, proper maintenance of wagons, and managing water valve for the fountain. Nicole will post another sign on the outside of the toolshed. Nicole to also move picnic sign to trash can area.</p> <p>Lois will send an iContact message re: 'peaceful co-existence' tips.</p> <p>Lois will continue to notify these gardeners of optional chores.</p>
Committee Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Activities: Seven people have volunteered to be on the committee and they are all set for the Lady Bug Release Party on May 21st. The committee is also discussing hosting a short summer gardening camp. • City Harvest: Linda has some lettuce that is almost ready to harvest. She has also started putting in tomato plants in plots of gardeners who had volunteered to host a city harvest plant; peppers will be next. The distribution from City Harvest is Saturday May 9th. Linda will be going away July 15th to July 25th and will need someone to cover City Harvest during this time. • Community Events: A 'Smart Gardening workshop will be held on May 27 from 6-7pm. Results of survey indicated that 'Gardening Smart,' 'Extending the Season: Vegetables All Winter' and 'Preserving Garden Harvest' were the most popular topics. Scott has offered to give a talk on tomatoes. • Facilities: There are some plots with sharp objects sticking out into the paths. Wagons are hard to maneuver around corners; ones that aren't that wide would be better. • Garden Chores: Every plot is accounted for on the assignment list. • Parkside Plantings: Derek turned on the sprinkler system as the PP area was very dry. Still awaiting mulch delivery by Park Service, but if not delivered within next two weeks, the garden will need to buy 	<p>Arrangements to be made at June SC meeting.</p> <p>Lois to add point re: keeping objects inside the plot to the above housekeeping iContact message. Tom to look into more convenient wagons (i.e., ones that are easier to maneuver) Nicole to laminate and post complete chore list on BB.</p>

	<p>mulch and have volunteers come to help spread it. A few plants have already been identified to fill in holes and will be purchased.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plot Assignments: Have a few new additions to the wait list. One gardener has given up his plot for this year and it was offered to the next person on the wait list. Everyone has completed the new gardener orientation. • Plot Use: There are nine regular and 2-3 waitlist gardeners who haven't started working their plot. • Website: No updates. • Workday Organization & Supervision: Lois will discuss status of spring chores (all but three have completed their obligation), plan for hedges (end of July will be too late to do it) and plan for Summer workday with Maya. • Age Friendly Task Force: Two focus were held groups in April with 14 gardeners plus two leaders attending. Good discussion/ideas. 	<p>Jim to follow up with new plot owner and coordinate transition.</p> <p>Jane will send out a reminder to these plot owners about the requirement to initiate gardening by May 15th.</p> <p>Lois will follow up with Maya about plan for hedges and July workday.</p> <p>Mady and Lois to review focus group summaries and continue to explore options over the summer in order to propose a range of possible activities.</p>
Old business	<p>CSX Response: Weeds are coming through fence on the CSX side.</p>	<p>Lois will continue to reach out to CSX about spraying this year.</p>
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July meeting: Lois needs someone to chair since she is unable to attend. • Next Steering Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 3 	