

**Schuylkill River Park Community Garden
Steering Committee Meeting
Markward Recreation Center
April 1, 2009**

Present:

Derek Freres (A-1), Chair
Linda Zaimis, Recording Secretary (B-4)
Seth Levi, Treasurer (J-7)
Al Kelman (J-6)
Dorothy Kogan (K-4)
Allison Rulon-Miller (C-2)
Doug Ross (H-6)

Not Present:

Margaret Dowling (K-2W)
Joyce Frye (H-6)
Fran Levi, (J-7)
Robert Reisley (D-1)

The meeting was called to order by Derek at 7:04 pm.

Al made a motion to enter the Garden in the PHS Garden Contest. Seconded and approved.

The Garden has applied for five grants:

- PHS Park Revitalization for \$7,000 for plot board replacement (denied)
- Babette Josephs for \$4,000 for plot board replacement (received)
- McLean Contributionship for \$5,000 for plot board replacement (pending)
- Connelly Foundation for \$5,000 for plot board replacement (pending)
- Dolfinger McMahon for \$1,000 for The Philadelphia School (TPS) (pending)

The grant for TPS is to be used for the City Harvest Program. Half of the grant will be for TPS to purchase tools and seed starting supplies for the school to be used to grow produce in the Garden for City Harvest. The other half will be used to build a new space in the Garden dedicated to TPS.

Stump Grinding: Fairmount Park's grinding machine would not fit in the Garden so Bartlett's was hired to do the grinding for a discounted price of \$170 for all of the stumps. Al made a motion to pay Bartlett with money from the Maintenance Fund. Seconded and approved.

Plumbing Issues: The plumber was able to fix the leaking South hydrant (water pump) with a special washer repair kit after consulting with the manufacturer. Part of the leak problem was caused by keeping the hydrant open for long periods in order to water the Parkside plantings. A solution is to install a separate hydrant dedicated to the soaker hoses in the border. Derek and Seth will attend a CCRA Board meeting to discuss the problem and ask CCRA if they will pay for at least half of the estimated cost of \$975. Al made a motion for the garden to pay for the balance of the cost if CCRA agrees to pay half (or more). Seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report: The available balance of the Garden Budget is \$3371.76. The balance of the Capital Budget is \$11,487.09.

PHS City Harvest: A survey was sent to the gardeners to see if there was any interest in participating in the program. About 10 people responded, willing to participate at some level. Seth made a motion to participate in the program with produce from the TPS garden along with contributions from the Tomato Trials beds and individual gardeners. Seconded and approved.

Spring Clean-Up Day: The Clean-up day is April 25. Babette Josephs is planning to attend so she can see the plot boards that were replaced last Fall. Lenora Berson will introduce her to the gardeners.

Parkside Plantings: Allison reported that it appears all of the new plantings survived the winter. Plans are to purchase another load of mushroom compost in late May or early June.

Interior Bed Design: Derek will send out a survey to the gardeners asking for suggestions which will then be compiled and presented to all of the gardeners.

Garden Events: Al will coordinate a late summer Garden Bounty Pot Luck dinner. Seth will work on ideas for more casual, semi-regular, get-togethers at the Garden.

Al will prepare thank-you letters for donations to the Garden given by Gardener's Supply, Everlast Lumber, Friends of SRP and Babette Josephs.

Facilities Report: Al made a motion to recognize George Trotman for his service to the Garden as last year's Facilities Manager. Seconded and approved.

Plot Transfer Policy: Al made a motion to maintain a single transfer request list, with no size restrictions, for any Gardener who wishes to transfer to another plot. Persons on the transfer request list will be allowed to select a different plot after October 31, when new plots become available. Seconded and approved.

10x20 Plot Policy: Doug made a motion to repeal the existing 20' plot policy that requires 20' plots to be given only to past gardeners. Seconded and approved.

Residency Requirements: Al made a motion that CCRA or the Steering Committee may request a Gardener or Waiting List Member to provide proof of residency in order to comply with the requirement that all gardeners must reside within the North side of South Street to South side of JFK, West side of Broad Street to East of the Schuylkill River. Seconded and approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Linda Zaimis,
Recording Secretary