

APPROVED

Schuylkill River Park Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Markward Recreation Center

Wednesday, August 6, 2014. 6:30- 8:00 PM

Minutes Submitted by: Cecily Kihn, Recording Secretary

All Present: Maja Bucan/Scott Poethig (I-1), Carol Eaton (E-7), Lois Evans (Chair) (E-6), Nicole Gortian (J-6), Christine Guiliano (G-2), Chris Henningsen (E-2), Ce Kihn (K-3), Michele Langer/Alan Cohen (C-7), Linda Zaimis (K-5), Derek Freres, invited guest.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Responsible Party/ Timeline
Call to order & Approval of Minutes	Minutes of the July 2, 2014 meeting reviewed. Motion to approve by Maja, second by Chris. Minutes approved unanimously by voice vote.	Cecily will post on website and garden BB.
Treasurer's Report	Wayne has developed a revised reimbursement form which Sally Frazza will put on the website. Alan moved, seconded by Christine, to approve the report with a correction in one expenditure category.	The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote. Carol will send correction to Wayne.
Chair's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>People's Garden Application.</u> Scott successfully registered the garden which now appears on the USDA website. We will eventually receive a plaque. • <u>Judges' Visit for PHS Gardening and Greening Contest Report.</u> Lois, Linda and Margie welcomed the judges. As they're starting a community garden in East Falls, the judges asked to be put on the email list for our education programs. Judging goes on until August 15. Winners will be announced on 9/20 at the gathering at the Navy Yard. • <u>Gardening Concerns.</u> Several concerns regarding community participation and use of garden resources were discussed. The decision was to approach the gardeners directly. • <u>Repair proposal status for South Gate.</u> Lois had Anvil Ironworks come look at the job; their estimate is \$350, the minimum for an off-site job. Lois also contacted Bill the Iron Man who asked for photos, which Lois emailed him, but he hasn't responded. Lois asked for approval. Maja moved that the repair should proceed, Michele seconded. • <u>Electricity improvement bid status.</u> Derek Freres attended this portion of the meeting and described his assessment of needed repairs. Department of Parks and Recreation is removing outlets at parks throughout the city because people access electricity there illegally. The best option is to run an electrical line in the air [rather than underground] from the pole at the current 16' height to a new, slim pole that would be placed through the arbor and from there down to a circuit breaker box just below the arbor that most gardeners could reach from the ground or with a small ladder. All wires inside the garden and outlet covers next to the benches would be replaced to meet code, and existing lights within the garden 	<p>Lois will follow up by mail or phone, identifying alternatives as appropriate.</p> <p>The motion was approved by voice vote. Lois will call Anvil Ironworks and ask them to repair the latch as well as install two new lock tabs on the South gate within the same minimum fee charge.</p> <p>The motion was unanimously approved.</p> <p>Lois will work with Derek to secure a more detailed proposal, and move forward with the work.</p> <p>Derek will order the lights. The job will be done by late September.</p>

	<p>would be switched to LEDs. Derek circulated a written proposal from MLK Electrical, the company doing similar work in nearby parks. The total bid is for \$3,000 and Derek offered to supervise gratis. Alan moved that we proceed with the work. Carol seconded the motion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Brick pylon deterioration.</u> Derek indicated that none of the deterioration is structural except for the pylon to which the South gate is attached; he has asked the Department of Parks and Recreation if they can fix that pylon. In addition, he is exploring whether the Park Service would consider making the needed repairs to the remaining pylons with SRPCG supplying the materials. The missing/loose bricks in the cistern patio area, however, will need to be repaired by the gardeners, perhaps on Fall work day. 	<p>Lois to follow up with Derek. Joan Wells has set aside sufficient bricks to be used for the pylon repairs if needed; other bricks and stones have been offered on Freecycle posting.</p>
Committee Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>City Harvest.</u> Linda reported that the garden has so far donated 246 lbs. The Church is still renovating and doesn't anticipate serving meals until the fall, thus, limiting our ability to drop off to three Wednesdays per month. Linda has asked the Church to notify her when meals resume and has been looking around for other drop-off spots (e.g., Manna), so far without success. • <u>Education.</u> Nicole reached out to Doris Stahl about conducting a seed starting workshop in the fall. She also contacted PHS to ask Sally McCabe to do another weed workshop but has heard nothing back yet. Loretta DeMarco from Master Gardeners will come August 20 to talk about winter sowing. Nicole suggests that square foot gardening be a topic at the Annual Meeting. Scott suggested getting Tracy Byford, who manages the Penn Greenhouse and Biopond gardens, if she'd be willing to talk on a topic appropriate to the garden. • <u>Facilities.</u> Lois recognized Chris's work on the new equipment inventory. It was decided to wait until spring to replace the wagons. • <u>Plot use.</u> Chris and Lois went through the garden and found some problems, including mint and weeds. • <u>Waiting/Transfer/Plot Assignment Lists.</u> There are now 38 on the waiting list. • <u>Annual Harvest Potluck.</u> Lois has sent out a notice about the August 17 Potluck. • <u>Task Force to Review Garden Rules.</u> The goal will be have the revised bylaws by March. 	<p>Linda will continue to follow up; Carol and Lois each volunteered to help with delivery to more distant drop-off sites.</p> <p>Cecily will give Nicole Doris's telephone number and will ask the Master Gardener's coordinator if anyone from a recent weed workshop could come and talk. Scott will follow up with Tracy Byford. Nicole will prepare announcement re: the August 20 workshop for posting to gardeners. Lois will post and send to CCRA and the East Falls garden group.</p> <p>New off-site storage for select equipment will need to be identified by fall.</p> <p>Chris will ask the people who have mint in their plots to remove it.</p> <p>Carol will check to make sure she has plates, napkins and cutlery.</p> <p>Michele will look at the Garden Rules to see if there are any that are no longer necessary, confer with Chris and Carol and then bring recommendations to the Steering Committee.</p>
Old Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Age friendly garden options.</u> Lois has checked with PCA about options and finds that there's a lot going on in this area, especially in a garden in Chinatown. 	<p>Lois will ask Madie Prowler to visit the Chinatown garden with her and also review the materials sent by PCA. She will invite someone from PCA to</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Status: Gardener request to use alternate watering process: Evans</u> • <u>Status: No Smoking Signage.</u> Lois spoke to Steve Huntington at CCRA who recommended that the garden go ahead with posting signage. Steve thinks we could have a special sign made in colors compatible with our garden sign. It will probably need to be hung below the current sign. This would cost about \$27 for one gate or \$50 for two: one on each gate. Scott moved, with a second by Linda, that we purchase two new no smoking signs along the lines of the example Lois handed out. Approved unanimously. • <u>Feedback on Mosquito Management.</u> Carol reported the Bt briquette seems to be working to keep mosquito larvae out of the cistern. • <u>PECO grant opportunity.</u> Lois asked if the garden should apply for a grant; the RFP focuses on programming for children/youth. 	<p>attend the October SC meeting. To date, the gardener has faced challenges with low water pressure using the submersible pump. Alan will look at the existing sign to match aesthetics, size, and so on and work with Lois to place order and install.</p> <p>Lois will read the material more thoroughly to see if there is a match with our goals/strategic plan and email the SC.</p>
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Policy/practice re: testing garden soil for contaminants.</u> Lois asked if this testing should be done every few years. Chris pointed out that when the garden was created, all the soil was replaced. <p>Next Steering Committee Meeting: Wednesday, September 3, 6:30 PM</p>	<p>Gardeners are advised to seek soil testing in their own plots at their own expense; the information is posted on the SRPCG website, and both soil nutrient and contamination testing can be requested.</p>

Recorded by Cecily Kihn, Recording Secretary Approved by the Steering Committee September 3, 2014