

## Schuylkill River Park Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Markward Recreation Center

Wednesday, August 5, 2015 6:30- 8:00 PM

**Minutes Submitted by:** Nicole Gortian, Secretary

**Present:** Maja Bucan (I-1), Carol Eaton (E-7), Lois Evans (Chair) (E-6), Nicole Gortian (J-6), Tom McKeon (D-4), and Linda Zaimis (K-5)

**Not Present:** Jane Epstein (G-3), Christine Guiliano (G-2), Michele Langer/Alan Cohen (C-7), Scott Poethig (I-1), Jim Wells (J-7), 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 amended Minutes of June 3 Steering Committee Meeting. Linda Zaimis 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 June & July '15 Treasurer's Reports for Wayne Rosenberger. Reports reviewed and discussed; approval deferred pending further discussion by Treasurer.	Wayne to present at next Steering Committee meeting. Pending meeting with CCRA Treasurer to reconcile journal entries. Lois Evans will explore annual attendance of the Garden SC Chair at a CCFRA Board Meeting and inviting the CCRA president to attend a SRPCG SC meeting annually to keep communications open and transparent.
Chair Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Update on One Riverside:</b> One Riverside contact has been very responsive. Over the past two months we have had two issues. One was related to odor (~creosote) which was addressed by taking air samples which indicated there was no cause for concern. The second issue was the collapse of the north garden path as a result of excavation activities, which was promptly addressed.</li> <li>• <b>Street Scenes Update:</b> Judging is going on during the weeks of August 3 and 10. Award ceremony will be 1-3pm on September 12<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• <b>Gardener Attendance/Participation:</b> Seven gardeners did not attend the July garden work day or complete a pre- or post-workday chore. For the future, the idea of scheduling a 4<sup>th</sup> workday in very late fall with an expectation that gardeners attend at least 3 of 4 was briefly discussed.</li> </ul>	<p>Lois Evans will continue to summarize the updates provided and send to Gardeners through iContact; she will also explore whether progress is likely to require a change in the date for the Fall Workday.</p> <p>Lois Evans will remind these seven gardeners by email that missing the Fall work day may place them in jeopardy of a 1 year lease reduction per current Guidelines.</p>
Committee Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Children's Activities:</b> Lois Evans reported for Jacoba Johnson. Camp has been running this summer. Attendance has been low and the camp will not likely be continued next year.</li> <li>• <b>City Harvest:</b> 488 pounds have been donated to date.</li> <li>• <b>Community Events:</b> Lois Evans reported for Alan Cohen.</li> </ul>	

	<p>Attendance at the July Photography Workshop was sparse. A final workshop is being scheduled for August /September on Fall/Winter Gardening.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Facilities:</b> Discussed plan for tool sharpening. Jane Epstein ordered three tools that were chosen based on the pain-free workshop recommendations.</li> <li>• <b>Garden Chores:</b> Nothing to report.</li> <li>• <b>Parkside Plantings:</b> Lois Evans reported for Joan Wells. All plants are doing well and no issues to report.</li> <li>• <b>Plot Assignments:</b> Nothing to report. One gardener who will be moving out of area in late summer has been given permission to continue to harvest plot before cleaning it up in the fall.</li> <li>• <b>Plot Use:</b> Forty one ploholders were advised to tidy up their gardens in mid-July. To date, all but 14 have responded. Exploration of special barriers for gardeners with young families and novice gardeners has indicated a potential need for smaller plots, mentoring, and education in gardening. Concern that the expectations are too high was raised.</li> <li>• <b>Website:</b> Nothing to report.</li> <li>• <b>Workday Organization &amp; Supervision:</b> Nothing to report.</li> <li>• <b>Age Friendly Initiative Task Force.</b> Lois Evans reviewed the summary draft report submitted by the Task Force re: activities, goals and recommendations. There was apparent consensus to move forward first on the idea of making some smaller plots available to gardeners; this would benefit not only older gardeners but also those with young children and others. The potential repurposing of one or two of the 10X20 plots that are currently divided for assignment to lottery gardeners was discussed. Other recommendations from the Task Force Report, including consideration of an automatic watering system, countertop high raised beds, container gardening, and so on will continue to be discussed.</li> <li>• <b>Garden History Task Force.</b> Maja Bucan briefly discussed plans for moving forward work on collecting the history of the garden including interviewing more of the original gardeners. There was consensus that preparing something for placement on the website was preferable to a published booklet; the website could include a</li> </ul>	<p>Tom McKeon to assess what tools need to be sharpened. Carol Eaton to inquire where the tools were taken for sharpening in the past. Lois Evans to facilitate posting on iContact 'TIPS for <i>Pain Free Gardening</i>' being developed for us by the Workshop leader.</p> <p>Lois Evans will send a reminder to gardeners whose 6 year lease period ends this year to clear their plots no later than October 31.</p> <p>An idea gleaned from the Southwark Community Garden re: assignment of Row Captains to help manage plot use was introduced and will be discussed further at a future meeting. For novice gardeners, assignment of a mentor for the first year and holding an early spring workshop on 'Gardening 101' is referred to the Community Events Committee for exploration.</p> <p>Suggestions of gardeners who might be knowledgeable about designing new garden options and willing to help plan should be shared with the Chair. Lois Evans will schedule a first meeting of interested SC members and these gardeners for later this month.</p> <p>Maja Bucan will explore and report back options &amp; costs for hiring a videographer to record and edit a meeting of original gardeners in which specific questions would be discussed to elicit and record more of the history.</p>
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Old business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Update on Lighting and Mulching Contract:</b> No report.</li> <li>• <b>Continued Participation in PHS Gardening &amp; Greening Competition:</b> Postponed to September meeting.</li> </ul>	
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Change in Meeting time.</b> To accommodate Wayne Rosenberger's teaching schedule, the Committee agreed to begin meeting on the second Tuesday evenings at 7-8:30 PM, starting in September.</li> <li>• <b>New SC members:</b> Members were asked to begin to identify gardeners who might be approached for interest in serving on the SC beginning March 2016.</li> <li>• <b>Annual Harvest Supper:</b> Saturday, September 12 from 5-7 PM in the Garden.</li> <li>• <b>Next Steering Committee Meeting:</b> Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.</li> </ul>	Lois Evans will notify the SC members of the change in time; Nicole Gortian will work with Sally Frazza to update the calendar posting on the website and also edit the signage on the Garden Bulletin Board.