

Schuylkill River Park Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Markward Recreation Center

Wednesday, November 6, 2013. 7:00-8:00 PM

Minutes Submitted by: L. Evans, Recording Secretary

Present: Lois Evans

Nicole Gortian

Chris Henningsen

Cecily Kihn

Doug Ross/Joyce Frye

Joan Wells (Chair)

Christine Guiliano

Al Kelman

Wayne Rosenberger (Treasurer)

Jim Wells

Not Present: Mark Gamba (resigned)

Michele Langer/Alan Cohen

Next Meeting: February 5, 2014

| Agenda Item | Discussion | Action/Responsible Party/ Timeline |
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| Call to order & Approval of Minutes | Minutes of the September 4, 2013, meeting reviewed and approved. | Lois will post on website and garden BB. |
| Treasurer's Report | \$8111.23 remains unspent to date. Bills for quarry fines, plumber, and Rittenhouse Hardware are expected, and a few supplies will be required for next spring [see Facilities report]. | Wayne will add a budget category for education for next year's budget. |
| Chair's Report | <p>SC Resignation: Mark Gamba has resigned from SC due to family obligations.</p> <p>Work Days: Only two gardeners have attended NO workdays or arranged for makeup this year. The SC discussed the time for next year fall workday.</p> <p>Hibiscus: Winter homes have been found for the 4 new hibiscus plants.</p> | As per the Garden Rules, it was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that plot leases for each of these gardeners be reduced by one year; in one case, the current year is thereby the last year of the lease. Joan will notify these two gardeners via both email and USPS. The gardener whose lease will be ended will be advised to clean the plot; the gardener with remaining time will be queried as to wishes re: remainder of the lease. There was consensus to change the Fall workday schedule to 9-1 beginning in 2014. |
| Committee Reports | <p>Rose care update: The pruning and topical applications made by Mika Tsekoura to the patio roses has had very good results.</p> <p>City Harvest: As of October 17, a total of 862 lb. of produce had been contributed from the garden this year. This compares with ~700 lb. in 2012.</p> <p>Education: Only 4 attended the entire experiential workshop on canning held in late September, presented by a member of the Master Gardener Group (Penn State Extension Program). That group has a list of topics it is prepared to present in the future. The SC valued the educational program trial, viewed it to be successful enough for continuation in the 2014 Garden</p> | <p>Joan will explore extending this treatment to those in the Parkside Plantings area.</p> <p>Nicole will prepare a list of 2013 workshops and available topics from the Master Gardeners for Joan to share at the Annual Meeting where gardeners will be polled as to the best days and times. Workshop schedule will be prepared and posted to begin earlier in the Garden Year; postings will</p> |

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| | <p>Year, and advised advance scheduling and more advertising, including to the greater community.</p> <p>Facilities: Chris identified source for new wheels for wagons. More push brooms will be needed in the Spring. The plumber will come this week to turn off the water, inspect the system including the fountain and make any needed repairs.</p> <p>Plot Use: Inspection following the Annual Cleanup Day revealed nearly 100% compliance. Gardeners who are leaving after this year are advised to clean up their plots, and many have already done this. It was noted that currently no deadline for plot clearing is in current lease. Remaining gardeners are advised to have cleaned up dead plants, flowers and weeds by December 15 according to the Garden Rules.</p> <p>Parkside Plantings: On the Annual Workday gardeners planted donated bulbs, iris, and dahlias in the Parkside Plantings area.</p> <p>Waiting/Transfer List: As of November 6, the Waiting List is at 50 and Transfer List at 0. At least 14 plots will be vacated after this Garden Year.</p> | <p>also be placed in the CCRA Newsletter, and on the Garden Gate, Toolshed Door, and Bulletin Board. Email reminders will be sent timely to gardeners.</p> <p>Joan will place order for the replacement wheels. Joan will drain, rinse and refill the rain barrels for winter.</p> <p>Joan will send reminder notices re: cleanup deadline of December 15. Christine agreed to add this language to the lease agreement, and also to examine the lease further for other modifications that may be appropriate. Joan will remind gardeners in the reminder notice above and also at the Annual Meeting that they may request transfer to another sized plot.</p> |
| Old Business | <p>Proposed apartment building to the north of the Garden: A petition to reconsider this construction was signed by over 250 neighbors and several hundred dollars in donations to the legal fund have been received. Ted Reed’s appeal of the Dranoff permit regarding the “underground” but above grade parking and FAR bonus will be heard by the Zoning Board of Adjustment on Wed., Nov. 20, at 12 noon.</p> <p>2014 Steering Committee NB: This is Doug, Al & Joan’s last year in the Garden. New SC members and candidate for president need to be identified. Need to begin training someone to take over waiting list and iContact messaging.</p> | <p>SC members and gardeners are requested to attend the scheduled Zoning Board Hearing on November 20 at 12 noon, Zoning Board of Adjustment Room, 1515 Arch St., 18th floor.</p> <p>Jim volunteered to take over the Waiting List function for next year. Joan will orient him. Joan will remain with Parkside Plantings but not on the SC.</p> |
| New Business | <p>New Business: Annual Meeting date, dates for work days, etc. Next Steering Committee Meeting is February 5, 2014</p> | <p>Meetings for December and January were cancelled by consensus; any business will be conducted via email. The Annual Meeting will be held March 27; Joan will schedule the other dates.</p> |

Prepared by L. Evans 11/06/13

Approved by Steering Committee 02/05/14