

**Schuylkill River Park Community Garden Minutes DRAFT**

**2026 Annual Meeting**

**March 19, 2026 at 7:00pm**

22<sup>nd</sup> and Spruce Streets – Trinity Church

1. **Steve Slaterbeck**, Chairperson, called the meeting to order. New and returning gardeners welcomed. Introduction to new gardeners. Reminder of guidelines and rules. The Minutes of the 2025 meeting were approved.
2. The Treasurer's Report – **Matt Thomas**. The budget was discussed and is in line with expectation and with previous years.
3. City Harvest Report – **Linda Zaimas**. The mission and history of City Harvest was explained. Gardeners were encouraged to participate. This past year, the garden harvested 701 pounds of produce. Invitation to use seeds for the City Harvest.
4. Community Chores Report and Sign-up Reminder – **Erin Aakhus**. The nature and timing of weekly chores was explained. **Steve Slaterbeck** clarified that work days and weekly chores are distinct.
5. Garden Work Days – **Rick Nawalinski** and **Matt Thomas**. Work days were announced for 2026, including April 11, July 11, and November 7. The nature and obligation of work days was discussed. The possibility of adding an option to a work day during the week to facilitate participation was discussed. The possibility of addressing non-compliance by shortening the length of non-compliant leases was announced.
6. Parkside Plantings Report – **Cerie Goldenberg**. The nature and history of the pollinator plantings/garden was explained. Invitation to volunteer. **Steve Slaterbeck** discussed the possibility of crediting pollinator planting volunteering against work days.
7. Facilities – **Sarah Hicks**. The nature and history of facilities was discussed, including the use of fountains and cisterns and the fragility of plumbing. No hoses permitted for personal gardens. Safe ways of protecting plantings, including fencing, were discussed. The importance of respecting and tolerating wildlife was discussed.
8. Thanks to outgoing Steering Committee Gardeners. **Steve Slaterbeck** thanked Bhavisha Patel and Scott Farrington for their many contributions.
9. Introduction of new Steering Committee Members. **Steve Slaterbeck** introduced new Steering Committee Members and described the current composition of the Steering Committee.
10. Thanks to Volunteers. **Steve Slaterbeck** thanked several volunteers for their contributions to the garden.
11. Discussion of orientation for new gardeners. **Steve Slaterbeck** discussed the orientation days for new gardeners, and clarified that new gardeners should attend one such orientation.
12. Announcement of Committees & Call for Volunteers – **Steve Slaterbeck**.
13. Additional matters:
  - a. Discussion of updates to physical plant.
  - b. Reminder of important 2026 dates, including the supper on Sunday, August 23.
  - c. Reminder to return name tags.
  - d. Reminder to sign up for chore week.
  - e. Announcement of new code for the lock on the garden.
14. Meeting adjourned.
15. Minutes recorded by **Peter Kessler** for approval at the 2027 Annual Meeting.

16.

**Lottery Plots (Annual):**

Joseph Salem A-03E

Bryan Ritchey A-03W

Stephanie Quach B-03E

Tague Harmaty B-03W

Kyle Conner K-04

**New Gardeners (CCRA Members):**

Aruni Jayatilleke B-02E

John Wagner G-07

Alison Ercole C-01

Inga Saffron H-02

Iain Mathieson C-05

Daniel Rader J-03

Karen Guss C-06

James Harrison K-05

Cheryl Tse F-01