



CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

Department of Parks and Engineering

COMMUNITY GARDEN ASSOCIATION SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

MINUTES

November 18, 2017

11:00 a.m., Library



Mission: To provide the community with the opportunity and means to grow vegetables, herbs and flowers, to educate people about the benefits of gardening and cultivate a community of people committed to sustainable land use in our city.

MEETING ATTENDEES: See attached sign in sheet

Discussion: Rodney called the meeting to order at 11:05 and the following items were discussed and agreed to by the consensus of those present:

1. For the 2018 growing season:
 - a. Returning gardeners should send applications to the City by December 17, 2017. Rodney will update applications on the garden website.
 - b. City will advertise for new plot holders via media releases and social media the first week of January, 2018
 - c. New members may apply up to Feb 15
2. The beds shall all be cleaned out by the end of the calendar year or the plot holder may lose their status as a returning gardener in good standing. Rodney will send email.
3. A small tiller is available at the garden for everyone to use in the spring. City does not plan to till any plots.
4. Brandon and Rachel discussed their procedures for "sheet mulching" beds and cover crops.
5. Compost bins: After three years of not being able to fully manage this issue, all attending agreed to remove the compost bins. At the suggestion of the Parks Manager, the City will remove the composting bins and install a concrete slab for leafgro INSIDE of the garden area (where the compost bins are now) and one for wood chips. A dumpster will be placed to through organic items in and they will be hauled to the landfill's processing area
6. Items for the City: Group made the following request of the City staff:
 - The wheelbarrows need some maintenance (tighten bolts and wheels)
 - Tools in the shed need re-stocked, especially garden rakes. Would like 6 metal watering cans from Tractor Supply
 - Obtain a cart that acts as a hose reel and/or a lighter weight second hose

Parks and Recreation Division

351 North Cleveland Avenue • Hagerstown, MD 21740
Ph: 301.739.8577 Ext. 169 • Fax: 301.790.0171

Engineering Division

1 East Franklin Street • Hagerstown, MD 21740-4817
Ph: 301.739.8577 Ext. 125 • Fax: 301.733.2214

- Remove all BROKEN water barrels (don't need replacements) and redistribute evenly the ones that will remain
 - Would like a battery powered "tap" light in the sheds to use when closing up at night I the dark.
 - Need to change the lock combination numbers in the spring
7. City will pull out the water meter ASAP so we can avoid fees over the winter and have it re-installed the first week of March 2018.
 8. Classes: Rachel indicated she would not be able to do the food classes in 2018. However, the group would like to see classes on "gardening 101 for beginners" organic pest control, and pollinators.
 9. There was also a lengthy discussion about meetings. It was suggested that maybe the classes be scheduled along with clean-up days. The plots were fairly well maintained this year (still issues with people not caring for their plots) but weeds grew in between the plots and were not taken care of. Everyone is responsible for the general look of the garden and no one person would be tasked for keeping it clean.

For the spring, suggested a simple, easy to read handout for all gardeners that highlight their responsibilities (weeds, tool care, etc.)

10. People raised concerns about plots left abandoned after being planted. Rodney asked that people keep him posted on problem plots and he would notify the plot holder.
11. Continues to be frustration about produce going to waste. Will discuss ideas in the spring. Ideas included a stand at the Farmers Market or a sign that could be moved from plot-to-polt that says "free produce".
12. Election: It was decided that leaders were not needed as much as people who would maintain good communications between the plot holders (Facebook, email, etc.). The following people volunteered to take on these roles as follows:
 - a. Monica Johnson
 - b. Rachel Forlifer
 - c. Julie Grim
 Need to make sure they have administrative rights to use the Facebook page

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for **March 10, 2018 in room 334 of the library.**

CC: All 2017 plot holders
 Mark Haddock
 Cathy Beach
 Rodney Tissue

Attachment: Sign in sheet

Garden 11/18/17

<u>Name</u>	<u>Contact Info</u>
Kathleen O'Connell	KO@WashLib.org
Margareth Nappean	Sahgony@gmail.com
Monica Johnson	monicajohnson.229@gmail.com
Winona Horowitz	gonebirdingwll@hotmail.com
Julie Grim	jtrach2008@yahoo.com
Quinn Gillespie	qgillespie@gmail.com
Roberta Weaver	RWeaver@outlook.com
BRANDON BLISCHE	blische@gmail.com
Rachel Forlifer	Rforlifer@gmail.com

~~Emily~~
Monica/Rachel/Julie