



CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

Department of Parks and Engineering

COMMUNITY GARDEN ASSOCIATION SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

MINUTES

November 19, 2016

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: Chairperson Colin 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 2017 growing season:
 - a. Returning gardeners should send applications to the City by December 15, 2016. Rodney will update applications on the garden website.
 - b. City will advertise for new plot holders through bill inserts, media releases and social media the first week of January, 2017
 - 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. The City has purchased a small tiller so tiller is available at the garden for everyone to use in the spring. City does not plan to till any plots
4. Soil fertility: Rodney reminded everyone that there is a pile of leaf-gro available at the rear of the garden near the alley. The City will provide maybe a dozen bags of composted manure to use to amend soil
5. Compost bins are there but no one is making compost. We may need a class about this and really need someone in charge of the compost.
6. Empty barrels: There are varying opinions on this. Only the plot coordinators have the combination for the lock on the water hydrant. There was a discussion about giving everyone the combination but the consensus was to keep it the way it is. Make sure everyone had the contact info for the plot coordinators so that the barrels could be filled more readily. Duties of the plot coordinators are to schedule work days, keep barrels filled and rotate responsibility for clean-up. There was also a suggestion to place a rain barrel behind the shed to keep the water cool. Very hot water was an issue this year.

Parks and Recreation Division

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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 2017. The barrels will be winterized by the city shortly
8. Classes: suggestions for topics: organic pest control, composting. At the mention of composting people discussed what to put in the compost pile and asked that a shredder be purchased.
9. There was also a lengthy discussion about meetings. It was suggested that maybe the classes be scheduled along with clean-up days. Someone suggested having monthly meeting times alternate between Thursday evening and Saturday morning to allow everyone to attend and work together. 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 and how to deal with the vegetables that grew there. It was suggested that these plot holders be contacted to either harvest their crops or give permission for others to take them (like a "free produce" sign). It was suggested that a list of charities that would take donated vegetables be posted.
11. The lock on the small gate to the garden was said to be difficult and a new one was requested.
12. Other things mentioned were to have a list of all the plot holders and their contact information in the shed and to maybe have information about obtaining plants and identifying them.
13. Election: Per the by-laws, a two year term was established:
 - a. **Co-Leaders:** Colin Ploscaru and Julie Grim
 - b. **Secretary:** Kathleen O'Connell and Julie Grimm
 - c. **Plot Coordinators:** TBD in the spring

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for **March 11, 2017 in room 334 of the library.**

CC: All 2016 plot holders
Mark Haddock
Cathy Beach
Rodney Tissue

Attachment: Sign in sheet