



CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

Department of Parks and Engineering

COMMUNITY GARDEN ASSOCIATION SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

MINUTES

March 11, 2017

10:00 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 10:05 and the following items were discussed and agreed to by the consensus of those present:

1. Rodney gave an overview of the Garden and its history and explained the city's role in supporting the Garden. He indicated that there were two general meeting s per year, in November and March.
2. Members introduced themselves and there is a nice diversity in gardening experience and backgrounds.
3. **General Info:** Rodney explained that the gardeners could begin gardening at any time and provided the combination to the locks for the garden itself and the sheds: 2626 (easy way to remember: there are 26 plots). Gardeners were reminded to lock the garden and the shed when they leave. They are also responsible for keeping their gardens tidy and weeded as well as keep the area immediately surrounding their plot clean and weed free. If there is an issue Rodney will contact them.
4. **Garden Rules:** Gardeners are asked to acknowledge they read the Rules and return a signed copy of the rules to the City. Rodney told the group that all the plots are assigned and that there is a waiting list.
5. **Tools:** Tools are in the shed and can be used by everyone. Tools include: watering cans, wheelbarrow, tiller with gas, and hand tools. Tools must be cleaned after each use to be ready for the next person to use them.
6. **Water:** There is public water for the Garden. The hydrant has a lock on it and the combination is given only to plot coordinators. ADA beds require more water. There is a wheelbarrow that has a hose in it that should only be used for filling the barrels. Gardeners are asked to not use the wheelbarrow that has the hose in it.
7. **Plot Coordinators:** These are gardeners who volunteer to keep the rain barrels filled with water and keep an eye on the Garden in general. There are 6-8 rain barrels in the garden. Issues in the past have been that the barrels are not filled or the water is very hot. Plot coordinators may have to fill the barrels every day or 3 to 4 times per week. Rodney gave them the lock combination. The coordinators are shown on the plot assignment list but are:

Parks and Recreation Division

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Ph: 301.739.8577 Ext. 169 • Fax: 301.790.0171

Engineering Division

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Ph: 301.739.8577 Ext. 125 • Fax: 301.733.2214

- Roberta and Diane
- Randy
- Margareth
- Maria
- Mike

8. **Preparation of the Garden:** Gardeners may use the tiller or work their soil by hand. There is a pile of Leaf Gro near the alley behind the Garden that can be used by gardeners. After three years, the soil may be depleted so the Leaf Gro is available. If there is a problem with the tiller, please contact Rodney.
9. **Facebook and Website:** Rodney reminded the gardeners that the Garden has a Facebook page and a website.
10. **Taking Care of or Abandoning Plot:** If a plot is neglected, Rodney will contact the gardener and ask them to remedy the situation. If a gardener has to abandon a plot, Rodney will assign the plot to a person on the waiting list. Email Rodney if a plot appears to be abandoned.
11. **Classes:** The Extension Office will once again be conducting classes “Market to Mealtime” which teaches how to use produce to cook seasonal recipes. Gardeners also asked for classes on organic gardening, organic pest control and organic composting. The classes were scheduled for the last Thursday of the month beginning in April. Schedule to be determined.
12. **Compost:** There are currently three bins with a sign that explains how to compost but this has not been followed and composting has not been done. Gardeners asked that a class be given about composting so that they would be knowledgeable about the whys and how’s. They also would like someone from the garden community to be responsible for composting who would be able to assist gardeners with this project. Rodney said the City may be able purchase a shredder and provide a bin or spot for materials that do not go into the compost pile.
13. **Excess Food:** Gardens produce more than many people can use and produce should not go to waste. It was decided that if there was excess produce that a gardener wanted to share that he/she could communicate via Facebook and/or email to let other gardeners know. Julie will also develop a list of community agencies and organizations that would be willing to take the excess and post it in the bulletin board. Gardeners would be responsible for taking the produce to the agency.
14. **Bulletin Board:** We will post in the bulletin board (key is kept in the shed) the attached Plot Assignment list of plot holder names, plot numbers and contact information of all the gardeners.
15. **Other:** Gardeners agreed that Randy can place a barrel on his plot to provide a drip irrigation system. He also is willing to share his expertise with others. Susan indicated she may try to start a newsletter. Pollinator plants should be considered near the front of the garden.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM. The next meeting is a class and possible meeting is weather permitting on **Thursday April 27 at 6:00 PM** at the garden.

CC: All 2017 plot holders
Mark Haddock
Cathy Beach

Attachment: Sign in sheet
Plot Assignment list