



CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

Department of Parks and Engineering

COMMUNITY GARDEN ASSOCIATION SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

MINUTES

March 10, 2018

10:30 a.m., at the Garden



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 10:30 and the following items were discussed and agreed to by the consensus of those present:

1. Rodney gave an overview of the Garden and explained the city's role in supporting the Garden. He indicated that there were two general meetings per year, in November and March.
2. The minutes from the November meeting were approved.
3. Members introduced themselves and there is a nice diversity in gardening experience and backgrounds.
4. Rodney explained that the gardeners could begin gardening at any time and he combination to the locks for the garden gates and the sheds: is "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 AND also keeping the area immediately surrounding their plot clean and weed free. If there is an issue Rodney will contact them.

It was decided that beginning in April, the first Saturday of the month would be a clean-up day.

5. **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 of six people.
6. **Tools:** Tools are in the shed and can be used by everyone. Tools include: watering cans, wheelbarrow, and hand tools. Tools must be cleaned after each use to be ready for the next person to use them.

The tiller and gasoline for it are available. There was a suggestion to clean the blades to keep it moving better and be ready for the next person. The blades and one back wheel are attached by pins and can be removed fairly easily. If there is a problem with the tiller, please contact Rodney.

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

7. **Water:** There is public water for the Garden. The hydrant has a lock on it and the combination is also 2626. PLEASE make sure the water is off when you leave the garden. ADA beds require more water.

Gardeners agreed to use the water barrels again and to refill them when necessary. There are new watering cans, lighter hoses and buckets for hauling water.

8. There is Leaf Gro in a bin at the back of the garden as well as a bin of wood chips. Both can be used by the gardeners. The bins will be refilled as necessary by the city. One gardener is using cardboard and wood chips as mulch. Another gardener planted a cover crop last fall to stop the weeds. There is also newspaper in the shed that can be used to cover weeds. Providing worms were also suggested when preparing your plot.
9. **Facebook and newsletter:** Monica has set up a closed group Facebook page for the 'Hagerstown Community Gardeners'. This is in addition to the City-established Facebook page for the Hagerstown Community Garden. She will also be given administrator privileges for the city's page.

Rachael will develop and maintain a monthly email newsletter for the gardeners. There is also a list of members on the bulletin board at the garden with contact information. Members are encouraged to contact one another with ideas, questions and concerns.

10. **Abandoning Plots:** 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 cannot offer classes anymore, however, they can provide written resources for the gardeners. The master gardeners and others may be able to provide classes for this growing season.
12. **Compost:** We abandoned the idea of compost bins. Instead, Waste Management has provided green totes to put garden organic waste in.
13. **Excess Food:** Gardens produce more than many people can use and produce should not go to waste. Julie Grimm will make a list of people who will take excess produce so it does not go to waste. Rodney will get the contact information for the farmer's market so that gardeners can sell/give away their excess at a booth in the market. The city will also provide a sign for the gardeners who want to allow others to take produce directly from their plots.
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. The garden rules are posted too.
15. There are now solar lights in the sheds. Pollinator plants will be placed along the fence as was done last year and
16. Rodney will provide a mason bees house to help with pollination.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.. The next "meeting" will be a clean-up day the morning of **April 7** at the garden.

CC: All 2018 plot holders
Mark Haddock
Cathy Beach

Attachment: Sign in sheet
Plot Assignment list