



CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

Department of Parks and Engineering

COMMUNITY GARDEN ASSOCIATION SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

MINUTES

March 7, 2020

10:00 a.m., at the downtown 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 10:00 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. This is the 6th season and eight new gardeners.
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.
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 eight people.
6. **Tools:** Tools are in the shed and can be used by everyone. The City will inspect it and make sure it's ready. 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. If there is a problem with the tiller, please contact Rodney.

Parks and Recreation Division

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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
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.
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.

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. **Compost:** We abandoned the idea of compost bins. Instead, Waste Management has provided green totes to put garden organic waste in. Please shut the lids when you can to keep water out.
12. **Excess Food:** Gardens produce more than many people can use and produce should not go to waste. The City will have a "excess produce, help yourself" sign made. Ideas for places to take excess produce are as follows:
 - Soul Haven
 - Holley Place
 - "Blessing to Be a Blessing"Monica will post these in the bulletin board with contact information.
13. **Bulletin Board:** We will post in the bulletin board (key is kept in the shed) the attached Plot Assignment list of plotholder names, plot numbers and contact information of all the gardeners. The garden rules are posted too.
14. Monarch Waystation: The garden is a registered 'waystation'. Pollinator plants will be placed along the fence as was done last year.
15. Plot #10 is a raised ADA-compliant bed that was not assigned to anyone. Gardeners may make this a "community herb garden".
16. Bonnie Kauffman from Hagerstown Tractor Supply attended and she will be providing many items to the garden as part of their support. She also encourages learning and social interaction at the garden.
17. Starbucks will be providing 5-lb used grounds. They will be in a container in the shed. Please use them up in your soil.
18. City staff will make sure water is turned on, provide a new lock on the man-gate and lubricate the yard hydrant.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am. The next "meeting" will be in the fall.

CC: All 2020 plot holders
Mark Haddock
Scott Smoot
Cathy Beach

Attachment: Sign in sheet
Plot Assignment list