

# Hyatt Park Community Garden

## Fall Meeting Minutes

**November 2, 2016**

Katie Ablard and Catherine Anderton, Co-Leaders, opened the meeting and welcomed gardeners. They asked that gardeners update and confirm their contact information.

### BRIEF REPORTS

Treasurer's Report—Nathan Santry had previously sent a report prior to the meeting. Highlights and discussion:

- Finished year with \$726.14 to carry over. Nathan reported on income and expenditures, noting where there were savings against budget.
- Next year we may want to extend the rail fence around the former compost bins.
- Rates of gardeners' dues are sufficient for our current needs.

### Pest Control—

- Rats had been nesting in the compost. As a result, the City generously made arrangements to provide bins for garden waste that will be picked up and made into compost as part of the City's composting program. We will need to put the bins out on Sunday evenings and put them back Monday mornings. Watch for rats and note if sweet potatoes are being eaten, a telltale sign.

### Garden Winterization—

- Gardeners must take steps to protect the soil and prevent loss of topsoil by winterizing plots. Methods include:
  - Planting a cover crop—At the beginning of November, it was noted that it was not too late to do this. Julia Stadler offered that she had purchased a general seed mixture online and that it had grown well. If possible, avoid clover, as it is hard to get out in spring. Kale and parsley are also good choices.
  - Using cardboard (which is compostable) with leaves or wood chips (which then can be raked into the path in the spring) to cover soil.
  - Simplest of all, putting down a thick layer of straw.
- You can protect late-sown seeds with white row cover.
- Some plants can remain and compost in place. The brassicas—yarrow, kale, cabbage, broccoli—provide for beneficial insects. You can over-winter greens and asparagus.

### Collaboration with Hyattsville Aging in Place

The informal partnership with Hyattsville Aging in Place was reported on. While it was a difficult summer due to heat and limited production, Lisa Walker, Clare Storck, and Janet Griffin coordinated some deliveries of produce from the garden to about 15 area seniors who are part of HAP. The value of the program to the seniors and to the Hyattsville community was highlighted. Both Mary Cliff, a HAP member who sees to delivery of vegetables, and Grace Papagiannis, who receives them, spoke about what it means to the participants. All the gardeners who contributed to this effort were thanked. How to ensure adequate supply for the operation was discussed, as well as growing vegetables which may be high-yielding and of particular use to the seniors—spinach and lettuces, tomatoes, squash, beans, peppers.

### RULES AND BY-LAWS: Updates and Approval

Patrick Sternal (who volunteered his help as an attorney) reported the work of the committee established last fall to review these documents:

- The charge to the committee was to simplify and clarify aspects of the rules and by-laws.
- Copies of the new documents were sent to gardeners prior to this Fall 2016 meeting and hard copies were made available at the meeting.
- Among the changes/clarifications are: (1) a provision whereby the executive committee can terminate a membership, and (2) statement that the requirement to complete 4 work hours during the season pertains to each plot, not each gardener.
- Following a brief review of adjustments, the motion was made and seconded to accept these new rules and bylaws, and that motion was passed unanimously.
- Patrick Sternal, who sadly is leaving the garden due to a change in residence, was roundly and warmly thanked.
- Revised documents will be posted on the website.

### GARDEN LEADERSHIP

Executive Committee—Expiring terms on various positions were noted and replacement volunteers requested:

- Co-leads—Katie Ablard is outgoing and we need to recruit a new co-lead to work with Cathy Anderton (who stepped in last year when another member had to withdraw as co-lead) for her second year. Volunteers were requested.
- Treasurer—Nathan Santry is in his second year
- Secretary—Katy June Friesen volunteered for a two-year term
- Plot Coordinator: Judy Kendall is in her second year

### Team Leads

- Plot Monitors: Lisa Davidson, Sophie Oriani, Dave Roeder, Lisa Walker
- Landscape Maintenance: Falani Spivey
- Perimeter Team Lead: Chris Doyle
- Team Lead: Katie Ablard

### Support Leads

- Communications and Outreach: Marci LeFevre
- Events: Gretchen Imahori
- Website: Ilona Wolfe, though she is working out of town presently, generously agreed to keep up the website.

### Discussion

- What to do with the former compost spaces
  - Dave Roeder suggested that part of the space could be used for a “pollinator hotel”, which he volunteered to construct.
  - Janet Griffin suggested that some portion of the space could be devoted to growing vegetables for HAP, for which the informal HAP committee would be responsible
  - Adjacent gardeners with just a half plot suggested expanding their areas to a full plot
  - Cathy, Janet, and Dave agreed to meet at the site and determine how the space could be shared
- Review of the number of plots available—Judy Kendall noted that there are 15 people on the waiting list, with 1 or 2 plots that we know of becoming available
- Maintenance—it was noted that the water spigot at the end of the garden nearest Hamilton Street had rotted and needed attention
- Deer may be a growing problem in the future, and what measures the garden may need to take to keep them out were discussed. A very high and costly fence is the only sure solution said some gardeners. Dave Roeder volunteered to talk with Brookside Gardens about the height of a successful deer fence.
- Bins--Compost bins need to be put out on the street each week on Sunday night for the City to pick up and then the bins returned to the garden near the shed. Dave Sampy has been doing this for the garden. The trash bin for non-compostable items has to be put out on Thursday and returned. It was suggested that this should count for work time and further that we should rotate monthly. Sophia Oriana volunteered to do it for November; Dave Roeder for December.

Meeting adjourned with refreshments enjoyed after the meeting.