

Spring Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2014

In Attendance:

Co-leads: Julia Stadler and Mary Graham

Secretary: Janet Griffin

Treasurer: Riccardo Casalini

Plot Coordinator: Laura Reams

Plot Monitoring: Lisa Davidson

Gardeners attendance noted on check-in sheet

Welcome and Introductions – Julia and Mary extended thanks to
Judy Kendall for creating and managing sale of t-shirts
Ryan Sours for designing and maintaining the website and developing the logos
Marci LeFevre and Katie Ablard for organizing the party at end of the year
Lisa Walker for managing an optional list serve

New Gardeners introduced themselves

Diane Bongiorno and William Strachan #32

Vicki Boone and daughter Lael #2

Katy June-Friesen and Tom Lemole #33

Michael Gorman #11

Judy Coleman #24

Ezra Finkin and Jessica Bartlett #37

Team Leads recognized

Dave Roeder takes care of the perimeter (also rats)

Smitty Smith is the path maintenance guy

Janean Romeans manages compost

BUSINESS

Work Days—Julia asked that everyone

Check website to review requirements for each gardener for participating in work days

First one—**April 5, 2014, 10am**—Winter Clean-Up—of plots of former gardeners; checking equipment; spreading wood chips on paths; remove plastic covering on the perimeter path facing playground

Composting—Mary spoke about

Items which can be composted—Janean says that we will accept tomato pepper and eggplants now-- everything except very woody stems like sunflower stalks and root balls. Cardboard is also trashed, not composted.

Wood Stump Howard and Sue Darcy along with Dave volunteered to find and bring a wood stump to the composting area of the garden so that stems can be crushed on it, like a chopping block.

Tomatoes and other vegetables themselves will continue to go into the circular drum, to which winter cover will be added to keep it dry. Keep pests at bay.

Water—Julia noted that

The City determines when the water is turned on, as they determine that danger of freezing is over and as coordinated with other parks. As it is entirely at the City's control, please understand and do not contact co-leads to inquire about date. Remember that seedlings do not need a lot of water.

Plot monitoring—Julia and Lisa

First one will be **Wednesday, June 4**. Generally once a month, midweek so that gardeners will have the weekend prior to get plots in order. Some gardening activity is expected by that time--soil tilled or something planted.

Trash—Mary asked for a volunteer

To put out trash on Wednesdays to be picked up on Thursdays—Lisa (plot monitor) volunteered, backed up by Claire.

Leaf-Gro—Jenny Lesselbaum talked about

Group purchase of leaf-gro if Gardeners would like to add to their plot soil. These are composted leaves from College Park. Jenny had previously sent an email to gardeners, but took additional names of those who would like to split an order. Gardeners can get 1 cubic yard, which works out to 4 big wheel barrows or 7 ½ small wheelbarrows, for the same price as last year--roughly \$27. Gardeners who order will pay into pay pal account upon notification and Jenny will be reimbursed. Trying to get the order delivered on a Friday. Note: Jenny's email is lej3030@gmail.com

Fence Repair – Mary reported that

Replacing Fence on park side will cost \$800 for material and there will be a work day for installation.

Wood Chips—Julia noted that

Chips are supplied by the city. Unlimited supply. Use them for the paths to manage the weeds. Dave is the expert.

Theft – Julia reported that

The City is installing cameras that we hope will reduce theft and will be a deterrent to non-gardeners taking vegetables. Camera include motion activated recordings and still images.

Education – Mary is arranging for a

Master Gardener to give a seminar on organic pest control. Mary will send an email with three possible dates.

Perimeter path—Julia reminded that

We should keep the path just inside the fence clear and free of plants. Also keep about a foot of distance between the plots. Be respectful of your neighbor. Consider planting something like parsley on the plot border to make a little hedge.

Hyattsville City Parade

It is scheduled for Saturday, April 5. Asked for a show of hands as to whether gardeners would like to do the parade or have the work day, the work day won by a substantial majority.

Harvest Party—Marci said

Gardeners and families are welcome at a pot-luck which can feature bounty from garden. That they will send out a survey monkey to determine a date.

Questions— Gardeners asked

What constitutes organic?—if you go to Home Depot and it says organic, that's fine. No miracle grow. Dave has done some research on what products are considered. Consult USDA standards. Be careful not to spray on your neighbors plot.

Can we take and use the Tomato cages and other stakes near the shed? Yes.

Reminder about height of items? Go onto website. Remember to put tall things in the middle.