

Watkins Pond Community Garden Board Meeting Minutes 10/01/17

9:00 AM at Coffee Republic, 801 Pleasant Dr. #100, Rockville, MD 20850

Action Items

- **Dayle McCarthy:** ask the City of Rockville if an entity, like the WPCG Board email address, could be the contact for the city, rather than a specific Board Member's email or phone
- **Dayle McCarthy:** Send Transco contract information to Ryan Marcheschi
- **Dayle McCarthy:** Send Hurley Garden contact to Ryan Marcheschi
- **Ryan Marcheschi:** Send email update to gardeners
- **Ryan Marcheschi:** Email the City of Rockville to remind them of our request for leaf mulch
- **Ryan Marcheschi:** Schedule November Season-Close Out Member Meeting
- **Ryan Marcheschi:** Purchase over-winter crop seeds for distribution to interested gardeners
- **Ryan Marcheschi:** Check with the City of Rockville when the water is scheduled to be turned off
- **Dres Zellweger:** Spray stinging insect nest near plot 2A, replace stinging insect catcher refill at rear of Garden
- **Dres Zellweger:** Update Bylaws with proposed new Board structure for vote and ratification
- **Sylvia Pacher:** Provide budget total to Board for inclusion in meeting minutes
- **Sylvia Pacher:** Estimate costs of providing financial incentives for Board participation
- **Rachel Britt:** Post meeting minutes from 7/29/17
- **Rachel Britt:** Send 10/1/17 meeting minutes to Board for approval before November Member Meeting
- **All Board Members:** Send Sylvia Pacher ideas for organizations that may be interested in donating funds/materials for the Children's Garden

Roll Call

In attendance: Ryan Marcheschi (President), Rachel Britt (Secretary), Dres Zellweger (Vice President), Dayle McCarthy (Member at Large), Sylvia Pacher (Treasurer), Dennis McCarthy (Member)

Approve Minutes from 7/29/17 Meeting

Unanimous approval of meeting minutes from 7/29/17

Outstanding Action Items from 7/29/17

The Board discussed outstanding action items from the 7/29/17 meeting and added new action items to the list above.

Budget Update

[Awaiting Budget Total]

President's Updates

- **Delivery of leaf mulch:** The City of Rockville, first leaf pick up in is mid-October, Ryan Marcheschi will email the City to remind them of our request for leaf mulch
- **Stinging insect removal:** A nest was discovered between the Children's garden and plot 2A. Dres Zellweger will spray the nest.
- **Garden security/locks:** Gates to the garden have been left unlocked. The Board will change the lock codes next season to increase Garden security.

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Board Structure and Bylaw Updates

Do our bylaws reflect our current Board structure?

Dres Zellweger made list of Board responsibilities that can be used to update our current Bylaws for ratification during a winter member meeting. The Board would like to update Board positions to rotate with a 3-year cycle, such that in any given year:

- A new Vice President is elected
- The Vice President becomes President
- The President becomes Past President
- The Past President rotates out
- All other Board positions are open for nominations and elections

The Board discussed recruitment of new Board members including potentially providing financial incentives (reduced membership fees) for Board participation. Sylvia Pacher will investigate how much these incentives may cost. The Board will highlight the benefits of Board participation at a Winter close-out meeting. They will also consider recruiting a new Member at Large for the next season.

The Board discussed making only two of three annual member meetings mandatory, with the Spring Meeting always being mandatory.

All proposed changes to the Bylaws will be collected for vote and ratification at an upcoming Member Meeting that has a quorum of attendees.

Garden Winter Close-out

Season Close-Out Meeting

Ryan Marcheschi will organize a Season Close-Out Member Meeting at the Saddle Ridge Community Center in November.

The Meeting Agenda will include:

- Discussion of Board positions
- Discussion of garden close-out procedures (tips, etc.)
- Poll of current gardeners who plan to return, expand, or leave next year
- Seed sharing
- Discussion of overwinter crops
- Solicit volunteers for hose storage

Action Items for Garden Winter Close-out

- Purchase and distribute seeds for overwinter crops to interested gardeners
- Collect and store the hoses (find garden volunteers with garage space to store hoses)
- Check bamboo for splits/etc.
- Check when the water will be shut off

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- Take sign at garden entrance down and store it
- Notify waitlist if plots will be available next season

Upcoming Work Parties

- Next work party scheduled for 10/14/17. There are likely plenty of volunteers.
- The Board discussed removing trash from the front of the garden. One idea was to partially bury the old wheel barrow at the garden entrance to make it into a planter.

Any other Items

Fund Raising for the Children's Garden

The Board discussed fund-raising to support the Children's Garden, since current member fees do not entirely cover Children's Garden activities. Board members will send Sylvia Pacher suggestions for organizations to approach for donations (of money or supplies) to support the Children's Garden.