

Franklin Community Garden Committee – Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2015, 8:08 PM (Franklin Municipal Building, Room 205)

- **Attendance:** Kiernan Reed, Bonnie Kaiden, Rich Clauser, Amy Acevedo
- **Minutes for 8/3/15 meeting:**
 - o Approved
- **Town Issues/Committee Issues:**
 - o Town has received Chris Clay's official resignation and we wish him well!
 - o Rec department moving to new home within next week or so, per Town
 - o Issues related to bylaws:
 - Rules and regs for garden serve as our bylaws. When gardeners sign up they agree to abide by these.
 - Handbook on website has not been updated since 2013 and we need to do that. It is a Google doc so easily accessible/able to be edited by committee members.
 - From now on we will calendar an annual review of handbook (will be an agenda item for formal meeting to review and come to next meeting with comments).
 - Rich asks if there is penalty associated with gardener's failure to show up for any workdays – there is a provision in current rules and regs requiring gardeners to do at least 4 hours of volunteer work per season (doesn't require specific workdays). Committee has right to revoke plot if rules and regs are not complied with.
 - Secondary issue – rules and regs that appear on website are not identical to committee's "official" rules and regs (website version appears to be original without subsequent revisions that were made). We will need to bring all info into line and produce true official version that gets distributed to all gardeners.
 - Not all gardeners are able to make weekend workdays – we need to assign other specific volunteer tasks to those gardeners. Rich can visit garden once a week and make running "punch list" of tasks to do. Weekly list will be posted on the bulletin board and gardeners can pick a task and write their name next to it so we know who did what.
 - Bonnie suggests coming up with a way to revive repeat gardeners' awareness of the rules and regs for next season. Ideas include holding an end of year wrap-up meeting for all gardeners, or having Rec distribute the info at the time of spring signup/payment.
 - The upshot is committee members need to take responsibility for specific tasks like volunteer coordination, "face of the garden," communications, etc. Remainder of this season's meetings will work this out.
 - Amy will take over communication with gardeners for remainder of this season. For next meeting, we will have an agenda item to rework other responsibilities for next season.
 - o From last meeting, we discussed issue of changing bylaws to permit gardeners to have extra beds if available. Committee is OK with existing gardeners taking over extra beds after waitlist has been exhausted, but we all agree that they should pay the

additional fee (possibly prorated if late in season). No one should be allowed to sign up for multiple beds until waitlist has been exhausted.

- Suggested wording for new bylaw to this effect: “If any unassigned beds remain at the end of the spring sign-up period, and there is no wait list, gardeners may then have the option of leasing one additional bed for that growing season only. The additional bed is not automatically renewable.”
- What is the end of the spring sign-up period? In past years we have set March 1 deadline. Whoever on the committee becomes responsible for communicating with gardeners will be responsible for contacting people to find out if they are renewing, etc. We have neglected deadlines in the last year or two but reinstating them would be a good idea.
- New wording: “If any unassigned beds remain ~~at the end of the spring sign-up period~~ after March 1, and there is no **one on the** wait list, the Committee will notify gardeners that additional beds are available. Gardeners may then have the option of leasing one additional bed for that growing season only. The additional bed is not automatically renewable.”
 - Amy moves to add this to the agenda for voting at next month’s meeting. Everyone seconds.

- **King St. Community Garden Updates:**

- 5 empty beds from last meeting’s minutes have now been filled. We’ll have 52 beds available for next year.
- Seems that gardeners ignore our requests to take care of the area immediately around their beds (weeding, etc.), and weeds get out of hand. Town helps us by maintaining the exterior and providing woodchips and water, but we need to improve communication with groups around town to get some help with major weeding inside garden (Scouts, school kids or groups looking for community service, etc.). This would be part of “media face” responsibility.
- Water should be available at garden for next month or so –usually turned off by Town around mid-October.
- Chris has donated his solar tomato cones to the garden. Kiernan will bring back to the shed.
- Garden bed #7 had a theft – prized plant was stolen out of her garden. Gardener has asked if anyone else has reported similar thefts – we have not had any reports this year but it has happened in the past. Hard to come up with solutions, because we have no way of knowing who did it or whether it was deliberate. Kiernan has a friend involved with a community garden in Seattle and will reach out to ask how they handle these issues. We will also suggest to the gardener that we can move her bed to a different location for next season if she would feel more secure with that.

- **2015 Season (Renewals/New Gardeners):**

- Nothing to report

- **Events (Planning/Discussion):**

- Ed Szymanski has offered to give his pollinator presentation on September 27 at the scheduled workday, despite being rained out twice already this season! We will ask Ed to schedule for 11 AM as we had planned before. Kiernan will email blurb to Amy for posting on garden website/Facebook page, and will post on own blog and send to Franklin Matters. Amy will email all gardeners to notify them of event.

- **New Business:**
 - o Kiernan talked to Seth Rousseau about joining the committee and he was interested, but did not attend tonight's meeting. Kiernan will contact him again re: October.
 - o Amy will be talking to Ed Szymanski about joining the committee as well.
 - o Bonnie asked if any of the existing gardeners have any interest – Chris advised gardeners of committee opening in July, and one person expressed interest but was unable to make the meeting. Amy will ask again in next general garden email and we will reach out to some of the gardeners who have been with us since the beginning (including some former committee members). Rich will reach out to Tri-County to see if any young people are interested.
 - o Challenge: all committee members bring a guest to next meeting!
- **Adjourn: 9:18 PM**