

3/1/2009 Harvard Community Garden (HCG) Meeting Notes

HCG Plot Year: March 15 current year (2009) – March 14 next year (2010)

Payments of current members wishing to continue are due March 31.

Plot Assignments

- proposed assignments based on current survey results
 - o almost all current members want to continue and want more space
 - o Deb reviewed what people want
 - o Deb will propose assignments based on requests
- 20x20 maximum space per family unless there is unused space, then can open up. Voted and approved by group.
- Carolena will update application and send out to current members
- Extra space (within fence), what should we do with it?
 - o Expansion, donate, split, share
 - o Wait to discuss until next meeting (after plots assigned)
- Waiting list
 - o Carolena will maintain wait list.
 - o After assignments confirmed by existing members, then will offer open space to new members

Financials

- Review of information currently available.
 - o Current income potential = approx. net \$550
 - Less \$200 (prepayment received in 2008 to help with startup fees)
- What use money for?
 - o Review wish list
 - Suggested tool locker
 - Rain barrels (free)
 - Battery for fence
 - Weed control
 - o Everyone will think about what we want and we will review at next meeting.
- In general, we all agree to lower fees once we know what it takes to maintain the garden. However, we are keeping fees at current rate for 2009
 - o We will all look at the wish list and determine where the money should be used.
 - o Extra money (not used for maintaining garden) will be returned at the end of the year. The goal is not to keep a balance from year to year.

Needs of the community garden going forward

- Deb reviewed a list of jobs to keep garden running
- Volunteers – everyone should consider what they can do to help. Deb started a list of jobs; everyone should look at it and hopefully sign up for something. Doesn't mean you have to do it, you may just have to figure out what has to be done and then the members will help.
 - o General administration: Deb and Carolena
 - Email list, Waiting list: Carolena
 - o Treasurer (Financial Director): Susan H
 - o Website: Paul
 - o Community liaison: Ann T
 - o Water Brigade: Joe
 - o Pests: everyone (Sue M)
- It was recommended that we should establish Work Days for people to come down and help with garden maintenance

Miscellaneous items:

- Bee keeper – Ann T may know someone interested. We all are willing to have bees in area.
- Squash bugs were big problem last year so will be even bigger this year
- 2 issues to discuss in future meetings:

- Pest control (specifically squash bug control)
- Weed control
- Review goals/strategy of community garden (general discussion)
 - Is this about Littleton Road or beyond (about Harvard)?
 - Most wanted to keep this a Littleton road project.
 - We will support others who wish to start up another location
 - We will try to document all action items and decisions made for this garden to aid others in starting other locations.

Next steps

- Next meeting Sunday March 22 (Hapgood Room 7pm)

Agenda items for future meetings:

- Review of previous meeting and decisions:
 - Plot assignments
 - Volunteer list
- Rules
- Wish list
- Additional space
- Pest control
- Weed control