

## Two Coves Community Garden General Membership Meeting

October 24, 2009, 3:00 PM

The meeting was held at the garden after the Harvest Festival. There were about 25-30 members present.

The meeting began with a report back from Bernard, David, Gary and Emily re: the Meeting with The Parks Department on the previous Thursday. The garden will be closed for construction starting November 15, 2009, and will not be open again until the spring when construction is complete.

The issue was raised of possibly getting access to the composting area. Concerns were raised that this might delay construction or that it might be a liability issue for the contractor. Most agreed that it would be good to have access to the compost area if possible so as not to interrupt that important project. Emily suggested contacting the Astoria Parks Alliance for a possible alternate site for composting.

A box is going to be installed by the fire hydrant that will ensure that the garden's water system is up to city code. There will be two water lines going down either side of the garden. The line on the north side of the garden will run inside the sidewalk, and the line on the southeast will run outside of the sidewalk. If you have a plot in these areas, please clean it off, as construction will be happening through your plot to lay the water line. Make sure to take up any perennials that you want to save.

The garden was given a choice of having benches with backs installed or benches without backs (the backless benches are cheaper). A motion was made and passed that we ask for three benches with backs and two without. Location of the benches was discussed and agreed on. Bernard marked the locations down on the garden plans, and he has these details.

Parks will not be discussing whether there will be a second phase of construction until the spring.

Bernard reported that a person(s) broke into the garden and stole planters that he had newly installed in his plot. Most members of the garden are familiar with the various lovely planters that Bernard has created for the garden. The break in most likely happened on Thursday night. The person(s) cut the chain on the back gate to get in and cut the fence as well to get the larger items out of the garden. Bernard filed a police report and notified Green Thumb and The Parks Department.

Nominations for the Steering Committee are due by November 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be voting by email and proxy as well as in person at the November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Members can vote 'yes' or 'no' to those running. A candidate must receive more 'yes' than 'no' votes to be elected.

A general discussion of the organization of the Steering Committee followed. David provided the following list of duties that the Steering Committee has taken on this past year:

- Crisis Management: Rule violations; Threats to the garden's future from government/Parks department; Break-ins, vandalizing, theft (Police relationship).
- Membership Relations: Events, Mailings, Notifications, Meetings, Elections.
- Community Outreach/Political interaction: Fostering a positive relationship with the community (Events, Schools, Local groups) and maintaining relationships, correspondence and attending meetings with officials at GreenThumb, Goodwill, Parks Department, Community Board one, Greenshores, and Volunteer groups such as City Year.
- Plots: Allocations, Wait-list management, Map Creations, Orientation, Maintenance and plot-turnover, Phone Calls, Emails.
- Literature Creation: Membership packet, Letters to membership, Website, Letters to government officials, Newspapers.
- Maintenance: Tool-shed, Tools, Snow Shoveling, Trash, Winterization of plots, Common Spaces, Hoses, Lock, Trees, Mowing.

Rebecca suggested that roles be assigned to delineate who is responsible for what. Bernard reported that the current Steering Committee works somewhat that way currently with certain members focusing on certain tasks, although there is fluidity in this. Rebecca suggested that if key jobs are defined, it might be a good way to ensure smooth transitions when one person moves out of a role and another moves into that role.

Shirley suggested that certain people take on the roles of coordinator for certain tasks. Joseph suggested that it would be good to have a more coordinated email structure and outreach structure for getting more people involved in doing the tasks that need to be done. Bernard followed this up with the idea to have an online message board to post tasks.

It was suggested that there be more transparency with the work of the Steering Committee. It was requested that the minutes go out to the General Membership more regularly. Stacey reported that

minutes had been going out, but the Steering Committee got overwhelmed with the volume of work.

Kathryn volunteered to take minutes for General Membership and Steering Committee meetings.

It was suggested that members be able to attend Steering Committee Meetings. Stacey reported that members already can attend as long as they request in advance. Most Steering Committee Meetings are held in people's homes, so there is limited room for attendance. Steering Committee Meetings take place a week before the General Membership Meetings.

Emily and Bernard both emphasized that the garden needs people to step up and implement the ideas that were being discussed. Most of the current Steering Committee will be gone after the next election. Members are needed to step up and serve in this capacity.

Shirley and Brian reported that there is finished compost in the first of the compost bins. They are trying to clear out the bins as they are going to get new ones.

The meeting adjourned.