Hillcrest Garden Committee Meeting Minutes Mon, Sept 9, 2019

**7:00 pm** Hillcrest Community Garden

Attending: Mark Staves, Lois Huisman, Martha Chieply, Dean Ellinger, Henry Erb, Norma Jansma, Gordon Hubbard, Diane Velzen; Sheila Blackman

1. Approval of agenda - Approved

2. Reports

a. Update on garden conditions (plot assignments; plot upkeep; weed control; etc.) (Norma) – nothing new to report

b. Report on irrigation repair (Dean) – Dean is intending to replace all of the cheap components over time, and fixed 2 on emergency basis; Mentioned that spigots should be staked and hoses kept out of mowed area.

c. Report on FHNA board meeting (including tree decisions, front sign, gift card and potential for volunteer labor) (Mark) – sign is up; tree is still under review; new gift card with $200 balance, balance from old gift card will be refunded to Garden account; there will be 2 gift cards which will rotate in and out as Gwen needs to physically present gift card to LMCU to add money; Norma volunteered to write newsletter

d. Report on front plantings (Sheila Norma Others?) – Ground wasp nest in front is hampering weeding near sign. Dean will buy some wasp agent and place in shed. Place a small amount close to the nest opening to kill the wasps. Norma will contact Anna about the butterfly garden.

e. Report from Urban Roots as to how they handle liability issues (Norma) – No report

f. Report on Aquinas volunteer day (Norma, Sheila) – Much work on front plantings and compost. Thanks to the volunteers.

g. Compost Update – tentative chipping day Saturday, September 28; time to be arranged.

h. No dumping signage (Diane) – signs will arrive in the next 10 days

3. Discussions

a. Financial statement – Water bill for this quarter has come in since the treasurer (Gwen) sent us the budget - $880 for this past quarter. – Norma will ask Gwen to shift category: “licensing” cost to “grapids irrigation” and rename “refunds” to “miscellaneous” – question came up regarding the license certificate – does anyone have a hard copy?

b. Compost –

Big questions:

1. Is our garden waste pile disappearing fast enough? - No
2. Since it is NOT,
* should we bring organic matter from off-site, including wood chips (probably not for this year); leaves from Living Stones (which is a community service) Gordon will accept the leaves so they don’t add to our pile of material waiting to be composted;
* Can we organize a day to chip some of the waste to speed the process of breakdown? – Sept 28th -
* Other ideas to speed things through? Increase size of piles; please ask Greg NOT to include woodchips from the city.
1. How are we going to STOP neighbors from bringing their fall organic yard waste to dump in our pile? Can we put up the **NO DUMPING** signs? Gates will be locked after water is turned off. Norma will put a key in the shed.
2. Please review Greg’s e-mail. Specifically, he wishes to:

- slow the rate at which we flip – but double the input of our garden waste at each flipping.

- add wood chips from the city – Sheila will insist that we use our garden waste, not the wood chips from the city

- conduct a composting workshop. He would like to do it from 1-3 on one of the following days:

Oct. 5 or 6

Oct. 13

Oct. 19 or 20

Oct. 26 or 27

Oct 13th – seems ideal

(please note that a composting workshop was in our MOU with Urban Roots, but so, also, was a promise that they would post a sign in the area (which has not happened, and which might help with #3, above)). Urban roots will put up sign.

c. Fall Cleanup – Are we planning one this year, and, if so, when? After water is turned off (sometime in October; date to be finalized next meeting)

d. Living stones leaf dump – Gordon will accept leaf waste to his garden

4. New business

 Hoses should not be left on plot; impedes mowing; Ideas:

* volunteers remove hose which gardeners will have to retrieve;
* Hose hitch in each garden – Dean will look into cost.