

**Rose Roots Community Garden Minutes**  
**Rose Roots Monthly Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 10 , 2025, 6:00 pm**  
**Location: Rose Roots Community Garden Pavillion**



Steering Committee Attendance					
Erin Newton, Vice President	Y*	Laura Bennett, President	Y	Jim Richards, Operations	Y
Patty Sacks, West Side Lead / Volunteer Activity Coordination	N	Maggie Alcorn, Administrator	N	Gary Williams, Operations	Y
Tom Glum, Treasurer	Y	Aaron Amaya-South Pollinator	Y	Jack Nix	Y
Michelle Michel	Y				

*\*remotely*

**Call to Order-RR Mission:** To restore bonds between people, food and nature and to work together to create a better local food system for future generations.

**Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm**

## Officer Reports

### President—Laura

- Projects for the 2025 season discussed:
  - **Compost bins:**
    - Edges of the bins need reinforcement, as they have been bowing out when compost piles build up. Jack and Jim have discussed best method, and will proceed as time permits.
    - Gravel does not work well under the mowing area. Several suggestions were made, including replacement with bricks, pavers, or wood. Research will continue to determine best replacement, both practically and financially.
      - *no success on pavers and is this in budget for this year?*
  - **Children's area revamp-update**
    - Need for sand addition over the next several years. (A total of 36 bags have been put down this year already.) Possible budget line item yearly
    - Add bright colored paint to the large cement stones around the play area.
    - Paint has been located in barn area-and this paint will be used along with varnish for cement stones.
    - New playhouse has been donated by Carli Peterson
      - Old one will be torn down and taken away by June 7 by Deb Smith
      - Erin Newton has play structure to donate as well
    - Toy box/Roof top protection
      - Right now, rain rolls down the wall and soaks items in the toy box
      - Should a new, more water resistant toy box be purchased?

- Alternative – Can a covering be added to the play area (would serve to keep the rain out and give shade cover)
    - Ideas were brainstormed – canvas, portable camping shade cover, extend pergola and add sun/rain cover
    - Laura will pass ideas back to the Team for their review and recommendations
    - Still in progress
  - Mural on the wall (east side of shed) -- Laura Berkabile will be painting mural (3 days end of June)
  - Balance beam (low to the ground) – the Team is looking for possible donation of a length of wood (would be finished to eliminate splinters) or composite material
    - How can we help them get this done
- **New signage**
  - Food Forest – many of the signs are broken; at a minimum, we need to fix the bases and frames
    - Jack's suggestion is to use a 4x4 post for the base and build new wooden frameworks for the signs
    - Jim to reach out to Steve Simms for help with the building process
  - Compost areas (Laura to discuss for August 6th date)
    - Current wooden signage is not holding up for the entire season; need more durable product
    - Osiris will get signage ideas that DUG has compiled over the years that better outline the DOs and DON'TS of additions to the compost piles
    - Every year, we have issues with gardeners putting unusable items in the compost piles – egs., large, dirt-and stone-filled root balls, huge sunflower and other large perennial flower stalks, mint and other invasive herbs and weeds
    - A Do's and Don'ts bulletin will also be added to the South Pollinator area bulletin board
  - New Harvest Me and Water Me signs are also needed this year, as current ones have deteriorated (could be a good workshop event)
  - Chalkboards – Chalkboard team is great and messaging is a hit! Two permanent chalkboards for our Go Farm neighbors on Saturdays. Our new Chalkboard team is Heather and Carli, and they're already doing an outstanding job. There are now five boards placed around the garden. Tom has coated all of them with Marine Spar varnish for sun protection.
- **Benches west side**
  - Jack and Patti have discussed best placement and anchoring of benches in the Westside area, and installation will be done as time permits this season Could this be for August 6th
- **Go Farm**
  - The Partnership between Go Farm and RR is developing well
  - Saturday Farmers market 9-12pm every saturday
  - Yoga in the farm 9am on Friday
- **Workshops**
  - Huge success for a June 7th event

- **Fight Hunger Program-** RR receives funds each season from King Soopers (through shopper sign ups); this season, we received \$529, which will be used toward new signs for the south pollinator garden and food bank (veggie van) plots.
  - Shall we add signage for this?
- **Website revamp/update** - Leslie Silverman, owner of her own website development co (another new gardener!) met with Laura to discuss ideas for the RR website. A complete new look will be coming soon.
- Need Bio's from everyone in leadership
- **New Business August 6th -9-1PM**
  - Community Outreach "Crown Point Charter School" August 6th "staff outing/service day". Theme is "from the ground up" as they are building a new charter school building. They also are looking into a garden. Laura met with Erin (Principal), Keith (executive director) and
    - 50-60 staff coming to garden. Staff investment to bring potluck/eating utensils and support our Go Farm neighbors.
    - Five stations-Compost, South Pollinator, Westside, Art Station (new signage), Food Forest clean up
    - Potluck (RR provides grilled items and staff brings dishes)
    - Donation for rental of space
    - Sustainability
    - Will be posting on Colorado Charter School instagram for future schools.
    - Looking for volunteer opportunities for high school students

#### **Vice President—Erin**

- Will be booking all music events this season (if gardeners have any ideas/connections, they should let her know)
- Need date options for Hummingbirds to perform (potluck)
- Blurb about scholarship for need based plot

#### **Treasurer—Tom**

- Tom and Laura have approved budget for 2025 season
- Final 2025 season budget to be presented at June meeting

#### **Membership—Laura**

- All plots have been SOLD (small waiting list too)
- Some people overpaid, so Dan/Tom will work together to reimburse
- Plot 78, 65 and part of 66 have been covered (thistle and pollinator garden)
- Plot 49 will have a "mite at working signage". Jeff Staniszewski is working with CSU extension on mites that will kill bindweed.

## **Operations—Gary and Jim and Jack**

- Jack Nix update on ProLift opportunity

## **South Pollinator**

- Patty is working with City of Arvada for parasites on westside to eat bindweed
- City of Arvada is doing great job at mowing

**Westside-Patty** To occur over the course of the season (some items can be accomplished during next Workday event/June 7th)

- Irrigation system update/repairs
- Complete site furnishings installation
- Wholesale plant purchase (2 trees and about 12 perennials)
- Perennials (growing from seed)
- Nematodes order
- Scheduling volunteer days to:
  - Build commemorative area (central bed)-Done on June 7th and Patty provided pictures and gratitude email to those who helped
  - Laura and Patty to work on rock memorial
  - Plant
  - Weed (as was done last year, Patty will request Westside team members to volunteer to take responsibility for periodic weeding of a 20 ft portion of the perennial area)
  - Mow
  - Compost area development
- Patty is working with City of Arvada for parasites on westside to eat bindweed
- City of Arvada is doing great job at mowing

## **Produce Donations**

- To begin in June -will work with Veggie Van for official dates-Once we have dates chalkboard team will be alerted
- 25% of all VV produce last year was donated by our RR foodbank plots and RR gardeners (1726 lbs)
- Goal this year is 2000 lbs
- Importance of “Harvest Me” signage throughout the season, but especially in September when so many gardeners have MORE produce than they can use – don't throw it away/donate twice a week to VV

## **Carryover Action Items:**

### **May/June Completion:**

- Laura to reach out to Children's Area team for their ideas on a Roof Structure and the offered play structure
- Get from DUG:
  - Ideas for compost signage highlighting do's and don'ts of compost pile discards
  - Ideas for Leave and Don't Leave signage in “lean to” area
  - Possible commitment to offer a session at RR garden for revamping food forest plots (Laura to reach out to Creighton)

### **June/July Completion:**

- Food Forest and Compost area signage
- Children's play area revamp
- Installation of Westside benches

### **Garden Lead Requests:**

- **Food Forests** – if the areas are not entirely revamped, these projects need to happen – could be work day event tasks:
  - Mint thinned/controlled.
  - Roses pruned.
  - Add a new layer of mulch to paths.
  - Possible new plants – lavender, hyssop, chamomile, thyme, echinacea, yarrow
  - Apple tree food forest – remove grasses and plants growing in the path; prune/stabilize tree; add black-eyed susans
  - East side food forest – think bee balm and remove from path; if rhubarb doesn't recover from last year's grasshopper decimation, add new, as well as black-eyed susans, echinacea, hyssop
- **East Side Food Donation Areas** – Plot Need Requests:
  - Large bag of Diatomaceous Earth and Applicator (last year was very challenging with the
  - wide variety of pests - D.E. should be a great help)
  - Assortment of the following plants: peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, cucumber, leek, seed potatoes, onion sets
- **East Side Mini Pollinator Garden** – Projects (some of which could be done during workday events):
  - At end of season, 2024, this area was revamped, with many old and overgrown plants removed and perennial plantings/herbs added
  - Needs for this season – a flowering bush or dwarf tree, more flowering herbs, flower bulbs/tubers (also hope for seed/plant donation supplements from gardeners)