

**Rose Roots Community Garden Minutes**  
**Rose Roots Monthly Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 13 , 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	Y	Maggie Alcorn, Administrator	Y	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 6:00 pm**

## Officer Reports

### President—Laura

- The group welcomed Michelle-new gardener and newsletter author (taking over for Erin), as well as several other new gardeners who attended the meeting – there were introductions all around.
- 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.
  - **Children's area revamp.** In the last week, a team of very interested gardeners has formed, led by Laurie Schellenberger. The Team has been brainstorming a variety of ideas, and has approached leadership for a budget of \$200 to help offset cost.
    - Ideas include:
      - 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.
      - Add bright colored paint to the large cement stones around the play area. Add a newsletter item to ask gardeners for donations of any leftover paint they may have in primary colors. (Stones have already been primed, so now appear white.)

- New playhouse or kitchen (team has been checking for low- or no-cost item on facebook; newsletter item also will be added to seek out a gardener that may be ready to donate theirs)
  - If nothing is donated within next month, budget review will determine if any funds can be made available for purchase
  - Old one will be torn down and taken away by June 7
- Someone has reached out on Facebook offering to donate a play structure (jungle gym type)
  - Laura will check with DUG to find out if there is any liability issue
  - Will also pass back to the Team to determine if this is something they want to include in the play area
- 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
- Mural on the wall (east side of shed) -- a local artist has volunteered
- 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
- Two other items brought up by the Team:
  - Red ants are burrowing in the new sand - Operations will research best method for eliminating
  - Log rounds in the play area will no longer be used – newsletter item will be added to let gardeners know these rounds are up “for grabs” to be used in individual garden plots or anywhere within the RR community
- **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
    - 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 – eggs., 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 – 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
  - The Sue Donaldson memorial bench (donated by Dan Donaldson and family) has been installed by Dan and Jack; it faces West just outside the children's garden
- **Go Farm**
  - The Partnership between Go Farm and RR is developing well
  - The Go Farm team has made plans to meet with Laura soon to discuss their ideas for offering CSAs by late June, as well as having weekly produce stand offerings next to the parking lot
  - We will work with their team to help promote both ideas
- **DUG update**
  - A huge Thank You to Osiris (one of our new gardeners and a DUG marketing director) for all the free seed packets she has brought to RR – 100s made available by DUG; pollinator gardens will benefit; our gardeners are welcome to check out the variety of seeds still in the barn
  - Patty bought a tree from DUG – to be planted in Westside area
- **Filming in RR garden**
  - Small film company whose owners are new RR gardeners – have won awards worldwide, films include many environmental topics
  - May 25th – 8-8:30 am- Rose Roots will be used as a backdrop for filming
  - June 8th – 4PM (second filming)
  - Newsletter item to ask gardeners to have areas around their plots clear of weeds and looking good on filming dates
- **Workshops**
  - eVite has gone out for a Composting 101 workshop on Saturday May 17th at 9am conducted by Julie Gleason, a RR gardener and expert on Composting – 12 gardeners have responded YES as of May 15th!
  - Next service hours work event day will be June 7th from 8 am to 12 pm – gardeners will be invited to come for all or any part of the time that they can give to helping with RR community projects
  - Music event – First one is scheduled for July 24th – Erin has taken responsibility for booking (thank you, Erin!)
- **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.
- **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.

**Vice President—Erin**

- Will be booking all music events this season (if gardeners have any ideas/connections, they should let her know)

### **Treasurer—Tom**

- Tom and Laura continue this month with a review of the overall budget and budget requests by Operations and Team Leads
- 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)

### **Operations—Gary and Jim**

#### **South Pollinator**

- Budget request to be approved
- Patty and Aaron will be sending an email blast to all gardeners that have volunteered to be part of the South Pollinator team – for help with weeding and planting
- A new planting of perennials is planned to happen over the next few weeks

**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)
  - 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

### **Produce Donations**

- To begin in June -will work with Veggie Van for official dates
- 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 check with DUG regarding RR liability before a play structure is considered for children's area
- 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)