



## SHELTON COMMUNITY GARDENS COMMITTEE

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### Meeting Minutes, Monday, April 9, 2018

Present: Allison Menendez, Patty VanSickle, Teresa Gallagher, Theresa Syc, Ann Singletary, Mary King (left at 8:00 pm)

Absent: Sharna Kozak, Stacia Monahan

**The meeting was called to order** at 7:05 pm by Vice Chairman Allison Menendez.

**1. Presentation: “The Soil Food Web” by Renee Marsh, Advanced Master Gardener.** The hour-long Powerpoint presentation introduced the audience, which included a number of garden plot holders, to the soil ecosystem that sustains plants. There is a symbiotic relationship between soil bacteria/fungi and plant roots. The plant provides sugars made by photosynthesis to the bacteria and fungi, which in turn create networks throughout the soil to capture and convert nutrients and feed those to the plants. Traditional gardening methods such as tilling disrupt the bacteria and fungi, as does soil compaction and the use of pesticides.

**2. Meeting Minutes: Theresa Syc made a motion to approve the minutes for February 5, 2018. Seconded by Patty VanSickle. All were in favor.**

**3. Public Portion.** No one wished to speak.

**4. Registrations.** Teresa Gallagher reported that the registration for existing gardeners is complete. Only two gardeners at Shelton Lakes are not returning. The addition of city water at the garden may be the reason for the higher return rate at that garden. In previous years, there would be five or six plots available to new gardeners.

**5. Shelton Lakes Garden (Soundview).** Teresa Gallagher reported there is a tentative Clean Sweep event being scheduled by Boy Scout Troop 28 to remove old junk from the woods behind the garden. Theresa Syc noted that woodchips are needed.

**6. Long Hill Garden (Longview).** Teresa Gallagher said that the compost pile from last year still has not been removed. If and when city crews turn over the soil for a garden expansion, we will schedule a work party to install fencing around the new section and then register new gardeners.

**8. Nells Rock Garden (Dog Park).** Allison Menendez reported there are a lot of tree branches down from the winter storms.

**9. Eklund Garden.** Teresa Gallagher said there were also a lot of branches down at Eklund Garden, and most of the old mountain laurel limbs surrounding the garden broke. This took out about half of the deer fence, which she repaired. The oak leaf hydrangea in the garden was eaten by deer down to the main stem. She also made some improvements to the gate at Eklund and one of the Long Hill garden gates and repainted the signs.

**Comments by members:** Teresa Gallagher said she thought Renee Marsh did a terrific job with the presentation. Allison Menedez asked about giving Ms. Marsh a gift certificate. **Teresa Gallagher made a motion to purchase a \$75 gift certificate to Common Bond Market as a thank you to Renee Marsh. Allison Menendez seconded. All were in favor.**

The next meeting will be held September 10, 2018

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm.

*Meeting minutes were prepared by Teresa Gallagher.*