



Greenbelt Community Garden Club

2026 Membership Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2026 - Membership Meeting ~ 37 Gardeners in Attendance

Agenda Item	Notes
Welcome	<u>LINK TO PRESENTATION</u> The notes below serve to supplement the information on the slides President Ellen Bastio greeted members and introduced Executive Committee members
Plot Renewal Process	See “Renewal Process” slide from the presentation above for instructions for completing the plot renewal application.
Financial Update	- See “Financial Update” slide from the presentation. Acting Treasurer Ben Greene reported that the largest expense in 2025 was for the water catchment system. - A city-initiated USDA grant provided free compost from Compost Crew. - The major expense for 2026 is proposed to be the construction of catchment systems for other garden areas.
Water Initiative	- See “Water Initiative” slide. - Teresa Maxwell, Gardenway Coordinator, reported that the Gardenway water catchment system has been successful. Steve Wade and his brother-in-law, Joseph Forst, were thanked for volunteering their time to plan and construct the catchment system. - Bill Phelan offered to show his catchment system to members in the spring; Hamilton plot 22 - Steve Skolnik offered to share his solar-powered water systems expertise; how catchments with solar-powered pumps can allow the use of hoses to water gardens. - Luisa Robles expressed hope that GCGC can apply for a water catchment grant in 2026. She will be asked to forward the original water catchment grant application and instructions to the GCGC Executive Committee for consideration so that the terms of the grant can be understood and planned for. - If the Club moves forward with the grant process, a poll will be sent to members requesting volunteers to help build the next water system.
Compost Options	See “Compost Options” slide

	● Because there have been consecutive years of compost deliveries, the Executive Committee recommends that we not purchase compost in 2026 and instead use our funds to build water-catchment systems.
Garden UpKeep Reminders	● Eric Raun spoke for Garden Coordinators: ● Please contact your Garden Coordinator if you are temporarily unable to keep up with your garden. If there is a special circumstance (e.g., medical issues), let them know. ● See slide for link to “Garden Protocols” in the Bylaws regarding “Neglected Plots”. ● Reminder to respect the 22 applicants who are on the waitlist.
Weed Control	● See slide, which includes a link to UMD Garden Extension, weed management. ● Bob Trumbule offered to speak to concerned gardeners about weed management. ● He said that perennial weeds are our greatest challenge. Mowing will prevent seeds from spreading, but will not kill the plants. Poison ivy is a threat to people.
Next Steps	● see “Next Steps” slide for important announcements and deadlines, and for the link to vote for GCGC Treasurer by 2/27
Nominees for Treasurer	● Ben Greene, gardener, temporarily appointed by Executive Committee (upon recent resignation of Hannah Hethmon to pursue other projects). Ben is willing to serve as Treasurer and Webmaster. Please follow the link on the “Next Steps” slide to vote for our new Treasurer.
Questions and Answers	● William Drew addressed the concern that the Henry’s Hollow path along the woodland edge nearest GHI housing, and the stream edge at the bottom of the path, is becoming progressively more deeply eroded. His plot and the stream bank are threatened. ● Louisa Robles suggested applying for a grant to address the watershed issue. ● Ben Fishler offered to help address the erosion problem. He also offered to contact an environmental specialist at the UMD for input. ● Martha Tomecek suggested seeking a unified voice to include the GHI Woodland Committee and the City Committee on Trees to address the erosion. ● The GCGC will address the concern.