Prospect Heights Community Farm May Meeting Minutes

Saturday May 21, 2011 11:00- 11:57 pm

Attendees

Ruth Manning Lisa Watkins Traci Nottingham (took notes)

Virginia WebsterGrace NamJames GoldsteinMarcy J. GordonJeff SecorSilke TorrasJames Chappel **Lynn ArmentroutKeon Browne **Eva WangJen MacartneyLiz NevesWill LawCait KilpatrickYuki KitadaPrion L. ThompsonLourio KilpatrickAndrea Warmington

Brian L. Thompson Laurie Kilpatrick Andrea Warmington
Philip Silva Popanna Brandes ** Jennie Spector
Valentine Douglas Mara Gittleman Maria Stasavage
Douglas Amport ** Akosua Albriton Jon Pope (presiding)
Rosemary Palms Jonathan Matz **

Alexandra Hayes Catherine Orrok **= new members

Announcements, Updates and Discussions:

April/ May Meeting 2011 minutes ratified - 19 aye 1 abstention

Upcoming Events:

Jon P. - The **Storytelling Event** at the garden by the Brooklyn Arts Council, will be June 2, 2011 from 7-9 pm. Kaye Turner will be bringing storytellers & will be providing the flyers. (raindate TBD)

Bike Path Maps are also available (currently stored in the bulletin board)

Review of recent events/ projects: Jon - **Brooklyn-Queens Land Trust** came to describe themselves and answer questions. It is possible that we could join BANG land Trust and we can get BANG representatives to come to explain themselves. Either way TPL wishes to convey our deed this summer. Jon also offered his apologies for the scheduling - and re-scheduling- difficulties for last meeting; it was a matter of trying to get 3 groups together at the same time.

Virginia - Plant Sale Rosemary, Maria, Lee and others helped with the sale and raised a lot of money. The net amount was about \$600. Jon made window box planters that were very popular. Yuki will be doing a plant sale to benefit tsunami victims any leftover plants form the Gardens plant sale will be designated for Yuki's sale.

Farming Concrete project: Mara- if you wish to participate by logging how much produce you grow see Mara. There is a scale & notebook in the shed to record or you can report via email to Mara.

Treasury Report: Brian T. - new members, annual dues donations are on a sliding scale \$5 and up suggested. Currently we have approximately \$3500.

Box Report: Ruth - To remain eligible for a box you must do the required Open/ Service hours which equal 18 hours for box holders and 9 hours for non- box holders annually. Otherwise those on the waiting list will be dropped to the bottom of the list. Grace requests if we could have morning Open Hours, too.

Open/ Service Hours Report: Eva W. - it is now possible to see your current hours status on line on our website! Look for the list under the Members tab (or <u>click here</u>)

Compost Update: James G. - Volunteers needed! anyone who wishes to participate, see James G.

Garden Projects: Jon - Since our **hose** to the hydrant is busted in multiple places we need a new one. Virginia volunteered to see to it and to get a hose protector also so that vehicles will not run over it.

Mulberry area in the back of the garden: James G.- the mulberry stump is half extracted, but assistance is needed to finish it off James G suggested we replace it with a community oven; that could be a good way to get rid of our brush. The oven would burn hot at first for things like pizza, then as it cooled other foods could be cooked like breads & meats. Questions to JG included concerns about the smoke to our neighbors, open fire/ burning restrictions in NYC and the Fire Dept. (the oven would have a closed firebox)..

Virginian suggested anyone interested in the community oven should do a lot of research & talk to the members of Hattie Carthan Garden about the required fencing and permits, etc. Liz N. also has a few sketches that could be implemented. A request for a composting toilet was forwarded. Jon explained that there are no NYC laws from the Building Dept or the Health Dept. governing them and therefore it is a messy issue. Those that were placed in NYC Parks have been quietly relocated because of all the issues. Lynn proposed a committee be formed to winnow the viability of all the proposed projects. Liz volunteered to be the head of the "real estate development" committee; volunteering members include Traci, Akosua, Catherine, Ruth, Liz & Virginia. The committee will review all submitted proposals & present options to the general membership. Email your suggestions to Liz.

Fence Painting: Jon notes that our front fence needs painting. Jon will lead the effort & welcomes volunteers to help. Sinkhole by Redelia's bed: The area around Redelia's box has been sinking over the years & more quickly lately; this zone needs investigation of what's going wrong. Traci was nominated to lead the investigation effort. James G. & Val volunteered to help. The garden is in need of general repairs. The shed door was blown off this winter, the back fence needs attention, Adirondack chairs need repair. Jeff S. volunteered to be the head of the 'building & grounds' committee & Douglas agreed to help.

Next Meeting: June 18th 2011 11a.m. raindate 6/19/11 11a.m. - to be confirmed after inviting BANG Ruth volunteered to hang meeting notice on the front fence.

minutes taken & typed by Traci Nottingham, Secretary