Prospect Heights Community Farm September Meeting Minutes Saturday Sept 15, 2012 11:15am- 11:48am

Attendees

Hannah Adkinson **
Abbey Adkinson **
Lynn Armentrout
Alexis Casano-Antonellis (Lexie) **

Jean Kahler
Johanna Bauman (presiding)
Traci Nottingham (took notes)

Brian L. Thompson Rosemary Palms Elly Perkins Jeff Secor Liz Neves Jessica Stein Patrick

Frances Norwood

Catherine Orrok
Anna-Teres Chamble
Mark Jaffe
Jennifer Richman
Jennie Spector
Lisa Watkins
**= new members

Announcements and Updates:

August 2012 Meeting Minutes - ratification 8aye, 0 nay 3 abstentions

Service Hours report: Brian- Passed around Individuals' Open/ Service Hours Report for review; Brian has printed the August summary of hours and they can be found posted in the bulletin board and on our website.

Treasury report: Brian- We have \$3829.01 which includes dues collected to date, compost bins rebuild expenses plus \$260 in petty cash. Brian reminded everyone that if you are going to make purchases - especially large purchases- for the garden, since we are sponsored by a non-profit (OSI) we can make purchases tax free and should use the sales tax exempt letter. See Brian or Johanna for further info.

Compost report: Liz- The Compost rebuild is looking beautiful there is one more bin to finish. We will be planting donated hostas around the tree to help define the tree root zone. A final location for browns and the brush pile has to be decided. The Compost system is ready to receive material from the public again and Winter hours on Sundays will be scheduled for public drop off. We have already received 2 deliveries from the Food Co-Op and they are breaking down very fast.

Master Gardener report: Catherine- The redbud in the Communal Herb Garden is declining and the large maple tree in the back by the Compost is in decline- there are mushrooms at its base and it would probably have to be taken down eventually. Lynn added that maybe we should consider taking down the tree as part of the reorganization of the compost operations. Traci asked Catherine approx. how it would take to have the tree removed and she figured about \$2000-\$4000 to which Johanna gasped "that's our entire treasury!" Catherine said she would ask Cliff about pricing and added that Cliff also observed stress of the redbud while he was in the air cutting down the mulberry a couple of years ago. Jessica asked about pruning the dogwood over her bed (and the plum tree). Lynn suggested that we create a master plan for long range planning and also requested more communal beds- tabled for discussion until the October meeting.

BANG Land Trust report: Johanna- After attending the last BANG meeting, Johanna announced that BANG LT is now officially a non-profit and sent off for Statement of Charitable Organization so that BANG can start accepting donations. BANG has received a \$3500 grant from a council member. The grant is a reimbursable grant so 6\15 green and Bears loaned BANG the start up money and will be reimbursed as the receipts come in. BANG has also joined the Land Trust Alliance for \$250 annually. Among other services, they would be able to provide cheaper insurance for the entire BANG Land Trust which would be about \$1700-\$2000 for all the BANG gardens. Johanna will send a link for additional LTA information. TPL would like to sign a licensing agreement for the member gardens before conveyance. Deed conveyance is expected at the end of this year; there are several outstanding items to be completed first including land surveys. At the recent meeting Joanne Morse of TPL offered a Code Requirements List with respect to gardens listing useful info including rat abatement and other city rules that gardens need to comply with. BANG expects that its budget will be \$10,000 per year or less, but notes that fundraising will still be needed e.g. from City Councilmembers, events or online. Therefore they are looking for someone to volunteer to spearhead the new Fundraising Committee. This person need not be a BANG Board member. See Johanna to participate.

Discussions: Regarding the brush pile, Jennie asked that we make signs to tell what's for the brush pile and what to compost and suggested we also set a method to deal with the brush pile when it gets too big. Burning is not an option! Other suggestions included asking BANG to get a chipper that could be used by all gardens or renting one. In response to Will's request last meeting to flesh out info on the garden's website including the Garden's history, Frances brought a copy of the garden's first -and only- newsletter issue which gave a brief history (but it needs additional details- see Frances). Traci announced a Green Thumb workshop nearby in mid-October on Extending the Harvest. We could use the materials to start seeds; details will be posted to the listserve. Jean gave heartfelt thanks to all who have nurtured the apple trees over the years after finding Graham munching on one during one of his garden explorations. Jen R. suggested we finally get to building our stage.

Next Meeting: Saturday October 20th, 2012 1:00 p.m. raindate Sunday Oct 21th 1 p.m.