

Prospect Heights Farm

May 3, 2008, 2 pm

Minutes compiled by Traci Nottingham and Jean Kahler

In Attendance:

Lisa Watkins
Stan Baum
Kayla Schwarz (presiding)
Maria Stasavage
Dan Kelly
Ruth Manning
Virginia Webster
Cookie Thompson
Hanakyle Moranz
Thomas Stepanos*
Sarah Sajdak*
Ella Morgenlander
Kyla Fullcuwider (?) *
Andrey Lemon
Pete Rust*
Max Schorr*
Summer S. *
Frances Norwood
Philip Silva
Patricia Slee
Redelia Nottingham
Traci Nottingham (took notes)
Catherine Orrok
Rosemary Palms
Jillian Gladstone
James Kendred
Jean Kahler (took notes)
Akiko Kato
Silke
Ivanna

*New member

Topics:

Introductions

Small Business

Plant Sale

Giveaways

Open Hours Credit

Elections

Rules Committee

Steering Committee

Greenest Block in Brooklyn

Non-profit sponsor/status

Small Business

Redelia gave 2007 Open Hours calendar and open hours tally to Kayla

Anyone interested in learning more about caring for street trees in the neighborhood should contact Phil.

Anyone interested in working in the children's bed should talk to Phil

Plant Sale

The dates for this year's plant sale are:

May 24th-26th (Memorial Day Weekend) and May 31st-June 1st; 8am-8pm

Next year, we should consider an earlier date, perhaps overlapping with Mother's Day weekend.

Virginia will take charge of the plant sale; those interested in helping should talk to her. The following people volunteered to help at the sale: Ruth, Phil, Maria

Patricia will make and distribute a flyer for the sale

Virginia will draw up a price list to be posted in the garden, so that plants can be sold by members even outside of the official sale dates.

Giveaways

James K. and Patricia will pick up plants at the BBG Tulip Bulb and post-plant sale giveaways.

Maria and Virginia will pick up at the Kingsborough Psychiatric Urban Oasis giveaway

Open Hours Credit

Members voted to give open hours credit to those volunteering at the sale. Virginia will give a list of volunteers to Akiko (see below).

Elections

Co-coordinators

Joey has decided against running for co-coordinator.

Dan Kelly and Virginia Webster were nominated to serve this season with Kayla. Virginia expressed that she is only interested in working as part of a team of coordinators, not as sole coordinator.

Kayla, Dan, and Virginia elected Co-coordinators by majority vote, 20-0 (1 abstention)

Treasurer

Phil and Esther nominated as co-treasurers (to work with Stan's guidance this year) and elected by majority vote, 19-0 (2 abstentions)

Secretary

Jean K. and Traci nominated as co-secretaries and elected by majority vote, 20-0 (1 abstention)

Box Coordinator

Redelia has withdrawn her interest in being Box Coordinator.

Andrey and Cookie nominated and elected as co-coordinators, by majority vote.

Open Hours Coordinator

Redelia's record-keeping last season showed the usefulness of an Open Hours Coordinator. Duties: collecting the open hours sign-up calendar at the end of each month; tallying total member open hours at the end of each season.

Akiko nominated and elected by majority vote

BQLT Representative

Carl and Issac nominated and elected by majority vote.

Rules Committee

There is some confusion over the rules of the garden — a list of bylaws is available on the list-serve website, but it may not include every new proposal accepted at meetings since its creation. Phil suggested forming a Rules Committee to review the rules list, past meeting

minutes, etc., and present their findings and suggestions to the garden in 2 months (July meeting). Maria, Dan, and Virginia volunteered for the committee; others who are interested should contact Phil or Dan.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee — presently Cookie, Frances, Kayla, Catherine, and Traci, with Virginia as an alternate — is meant to include those members serving in positions we no longer have and does not include some newer positions that perhaps should be considered. For now, the committee will remain the same, but the Rule Committee will study the issue and make a recommendation at the July meeting.

Greenest Block in Brooklyn

The BBG would like us to enter the Greenest Block in Brooklyn contest. If we enter, the BBG will send experts to advise and help us, particularly in caring for our tree pits. Phil proposes that we enter the contest. The motion is seconded and passed. Phil will submit the necessary paperwork and lead the project.

Non-profit sponsor/status

Phil brought up the possibility of looking for an independent non-profit to act as our sponsor. The main benefits of this are: our money wouldn't have to be in an account with an individual's name on it (Stan concurs that this is a good idea in order to reduce individual liability); any grants we receive could be processed more quickly if they went to a non-profit (which would then distribute them to us); we would no longer have to pay tax on plants, etc.; it would be faster and easier than becoming our own non-profit. An important criterion in choosing a sponsor is finding one that will not take a large percentage of our grants. Others at the meeting put forth that it is not necessarily that difficult to become our own non-profit, although it would require annual audits. Members agreed that Phil should do further research; those with

particular expertise or interest should contact him. Phil will start by checking with the Trust for Public Land.

Next Meeting

Saturday, June 7th, at 2pm in the garden.

Raindate: Sunday, June 8th.