

Prospect Heights Farm

July 12, 2008, 10:30 am

Minutes compiled by Traci Nottingham and Jean Kahler

(This meeting also audio-recorded by Dan)

In Attendance:

Dan Kelly (presiding)

Cookie Thompson

Redelia Nottingham

Traci Nottingham (took notes)

Rosemary Palms

Jean Kahler (took notes)

Akiko Kato

Jon Pope

Ashley Lahoud

Ben Shupp

Valentine Douglas

Audrey Morrell

Gerad(?) Argeros

Elizabeth Grosser

Patricia Slee

Catherine Orrok

James Goldstein

Yuki Kitada

Brian L. Thompson

Koren Manning

Ruth Manning*

Jean Cox*

Peggy Eluert (Visiting Compost Advisor)

*Arrived part way through meeting

Topics:

Priority Check-In

Treasury Report

Rules Committee Report

Box Coordinator

Proposal re: Service Hours

Plans for August Meeting

Other Business

Priority Check-In

Dan reports on the progress of the projects voted “priorities” at the June meeting.

Completed Projects

Compost Bins — Rebuild and Reorganized. Big thanks to Jon Pope and those who helped him.

Jon is nominated to be Compost Coordinator. Vote is unanimous in favor.

Jon reports:

Before expanding our compost operations, we should get our current system running well.

There are new signs on the compost bins, directing where to add, etc.

More consistent monitoring will help the compost improve. To that end, a compost thermometer has been ordered. Jon is also seeking a team of volunteers to check on the compost and adjust as necessary every week or so. Interested parties should contact him.

Projects in Process

Litter Collection

Ruth, James K., Ashley, Phil, and Dan have helped clear old junk out of area around shed; Joey and other cleaned up at the start of the season.

Jean K. points out that pots, etc., needed for plant sale were thrown out early in season; future clean-up efforts should involve careful sorting.

Dan suggests more formal storage behind shed.

Ashley volunteers to coordinate litter efforts, including determining whether to keep garbage cans in the garden, whether to request additional city cans on street, etc.

Drip Irrigation

Greenbridge will help install drip irrigation system in August. Irrigation will be available for every bed; those who do not wish to use it will not have to hook up.

Project Manager needed.

Brush Bins

Plan in place to build better brush bins and budget approved.

Shed Patio

Plan in place to install block "patio"/mud-free area in front of shed. Phil is leading this effort.

Projects Not Yet Started

Please see Dan if interested in coordinating any of these projects

Water Tank Alignment and Foundation Repair — must happen soon

Shelves, etc., for Shed

Jon Pope has access to restaurant shelving, if we decide we want it.

Patricia will help maintain shed organization once it's in order.

Wheelbarrow Tire Repair

Treasury Report

Phil reports that, based on email from Stan, we had a balance of \$3037 and change as of May 30th, and have since taken in approximately \$1230 in dues and plant sale revenue and spent ~\$300-400 on keys and compost project supplies, for a total balance of \$4280.

Traci has in notes from the March meeting a balance over \$5000 and questions the discrepancy. Phil will check in with Stan to see if the \$5000 was an error.

Still looking for a willing non-profit sponsor so accounts and liability do not have to be in a member's name. (Stan has been paying taxes on our account.) Catherine O. Will contact 6/15 Garden.

Ashley will also check in with various nonprofit contacts. She strongly advises against self-incorporating.

Rules Committee Report

Phil reports from the Rules Committee. They have drawn up all the rules they have found in our records, including garden by-laws and notes on votes from meetings.

The committee proposes 2 systems of garden rules:

- **By-laws.** A stable list of major guiding principles — essentially a constitution — requiring 2/3 majority to change.

- **Policies.** A more flexible list of rules concerning small, day-to-day activities. These can change with a simple majority vote.

A list of proposed rules, taken from garden records, will circulate online and be posted in the garden prior to the August meeting, when we will vote on them.

Rosemary asks for the group to formally recognize efforts of Rules Committee.

Box Coordinator

Cookie felt she was sole coordinator, to be assisted by Andrey. Jean K. And Traci have in their notes from June meeting that they were to be co-coordinators.

Dan will contact Andrey to see if she wishes to continue as co-coordinator.

Ruth volunteers to help Cookie or Andrey and Cookie. Vote taken: 8 yea, 5 nay. Ruth elected.

Proposal re: Service Hours

Dan proposes that, in light of the huge amount of time and effort he has spent on the compost project, Jon Pope be relieved of open hours requirement for the duration of this season. Ultimately passed, 9-2.

Discussion meanwhile ensues on the pros and cons of a “service hours” requirement to replace current open hours requirement. First priority for member work hours must be open hours. If open hours are being filled, could project managers allow those working on official “priority” projects to claim those hours towards their open hours requirement? We should discuss this further at future meeting.

Plans for August Meeting

Vote on by-laws and policies.

Discuss James K’s pruning — Traci had requested via email that we discuss that this meeting, but in the interests of time, members voted to discuss in August. (Vote to table: 5-0-4)

Other Business

Dan reminds people not to leave things in the garden, as it had gotten very cluttered.

Catherine O. Reports that Martha Rubin, who donated \$2500 to the garden, recently toured the garden and asked to be invited back when the tomatoes are ripe. Suggestion that she be invited for a tour during the 8/14 drip irrigation event.

Next Meeting: August 16th, 10:30 am. Raindate August 17th.