

Prospect Heights Community Farm 2010 Winter Meeting Minutes

Meeting held at Duryea Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, New York Sunday March 7, 2010 2:00-4:30pm

**Attendees**

Jean Kahler Will Law Eva Wang Jon Pope Virginia Webster  
James Goldstein Jonathan Gess\* Meredith Kadet Laurie Kilpatrick  
Maria Stastvage Akiko Kato Lynn Armentrout Lisa Watkins Redelia Nottingham  
Traci nottingham (took notes) Catherine Orrok Rosemary Palms Torborg Davern  
Ruth Manning Jake Sherman Jessica Stein Jeff Secor Meryl Branch-McTiernan\*  
Kathleen Lopez Kim\* Elly Perkins Johanna Bauman Grace Nam  
Carl Lawrence Marcy Gordon\* \*= new members

Welcoming remarks from the Pastor and presiding Coordinator and Co-Coordinator Virginia Webster and Jon Pope.

- September 2009 minutes ratified 20 yea-3 abstention
- Treasury report-Treasurer, Phil Sylva absent, no report
- BQLT status- in disarray and our elected Representative to be determined

Election of New Officers (proceeded in conjunction with the reading of the bylaws re: offices)

- Coordinator-Jon Pope Unanimous
- Co-coordinator-Lisa Watkins U
- Secretary-Traci Nottingham U
- Co-secretary-Jeff Secor U
- Treasurer-Phil Sylva U
- Co-treasurer-Johanna Bauman U
- Open Hours Coordinator-Akiko Kato U
- Box List Coordinator-Ruth Manning U
- Compost Coordinator-James Goldstein U
- Compost Co-coordinator-Johanna Bauman U
- Communications Coordinator-Maria Stasavage U
- Communications Co-coordinator-Will Law U
- Master Gardeners- Catherine Orrok and Traci Nottingham Unanimous less 1 abstention
- Coordinators Emeritus- Francis, Catherine Orrok, Virginia Webster and Kayla Schwartz  
Unanimous- less 1 abstention

Continued into discussion of number of emeritus positions. Discussion to be continued, but not at this meeting.

#### Not for Profit Status-led by Johanna

The garden has two choices to obtain a not for profit status. First choice is to become an independent 501-c3 organization. This option would require annual filing fees & serious penalties if we did not renew. The second choice, which Johanna suggests, is to obtain fiscal sponsorship through the Open Space Institute (OSI). Becoming fiscally sponsored gives the Farm the ability to offer tax deductions for dues & donations, to make tax free purchases and be eligible for larger grants. OSI would sponsor our bank account for a fee of 8% of the deposits & in return we must abide by their requirements, provide them an annual financial report and display their logo on our website.

Concern was expressed in the lack of information presented/known about OSI. One member suggested they could be terrorists. Other questions included: who is OSI & how long have they existed? do we have to have a fundraising party for OSI? (no); what grants would we apply for? (purchasing plants for community tree wells). Johanna will bring more information to the April meeting and offers that we could speak with other Gardens to hear their experiences with OSI. Applications for fiscal sponsorship are considered quarterly.

#### **MAJOR QUESTION: DOES THIS INTERFERE WITH OUR TPL AGREEMENT ???**

#### Amendments to Bylaws and laws

- The wording , ' Must come to a meeting to commence membership enrollment.' be returned to wording in requirements. Bylaws/Section 2 #2 ( proposed by gov. body.)- passed U
- The wording, ' ...at the governing body's discretion.' be added to the wording of failure to comply with membership requirements. (proposed by gov. body.) passed U
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- Re: Box loan policy Passed with amendment (*italicized*) passed Unanimous

#### One Year Box Loan Policy

In the effort to maximize planting opportunities for garden Members, if a Box Holder knows they cannot cultivate their box for a season (e.g. due to planned surgery, care for a sick family member , etc.) that member may loan their box for **one** planting season. *The additional responsibilities that go with box gardening are also transferred with the right to garden the box and the lending member's responsibilities will be that of a general member for the season.*

The box will be offered to the next person on the waiting list with the understanding that its use is temporary and for one planting season only. The 'renter' will not lose their place on the Box Waiting List until they are permanently assigned a box.

The following season the Box Holder may resume cultivating the box. If the Holder does not return the following year, their box will be considered abandoned and will be offered first to the other Box Holders if they wish to switch planting locations. (The 'renter' will be assigned the next available box accordingly to their position on the Waiting List.)

Before any arrangements are made All Box Holders must coordinate with the Box Coordinator if they wish to loan their box for a year or if they desire to move.

- Re: Meeting requirement bylaw "must attend 50% of scheduled meeting time in order to be counted in attendance" and meetings will start on time passed
- That bylaw section 4 Part A be amended to take out : That a member must have attended 2 meetings prior to current meeting in order to vote

Box Update - No update

Open Hours Update- Please clearly write your complete **first and last name legibly** on the Open Hours calendar (there are several Jen's, Alex's, Jon's, etc.)

Compost Update - Jon Pope

We made 17 cubic yards of compost and eliminated the rats by lining bins with hardware cloth

#### Programs and Accomplishments

- Fall Leaf Collection- 2600 lbs of leaves collected to be shredded
- "Mulchfest 2010" - 300 Christmas trees collected and the city brought the mulch truck to us!!!

#### Notice

A benefit rummage sale is planned to assist Robin Simmen (of Brooklyn Green Bridge) to help her family recover from the Christmas-time house fire. There is also a registry at Macy's to help her recover from her serious hardships.

#### Garden Update

- Snow damage to the Junipers and Viburnums and they were pruned
- Spring plants are springing up
- Trimming/pruning workday to be announced

**NEXT MEETING SATURDAY APRIL 10, 2010 1:00 PM in the Garden**

raindate Sunday April 11th, 2010 1 pm