

**In attendance:**

Jon Pope (presiding)  
Traci Nottingham (took notes)  
Melissa Atwood  
Lindsay Haddix  
Laurie Kilpatrick  
Silke Torras  
Jeff Secor  
Jennie Spector\*\*  
Valentine Douglas  
Christine Abelman  
Virginia Webster

James Goldstein  
Johanna Bauman  
Liz Neves  
Laurie Collyer\*\* (& Corrina)  
Zoe Calman  
Frances Norwood  
Ruth A. Manning  
Rachel Tiemann\*\*  
Anthony Mohan  
Mark Jaffe  
Neal Kronley

Dawn Sticklor  
Andrea Warmington  
Matt Fleisher-Black\*\*  
Yuki Kitada  
Sophie Oberfield\*\*  
Redelia Nottingham  
Grace Nam  
Elly Perkins  
Jennifer Richman  
  
\*\* -new members

**Announcements:**

We are a GreenThumb & Trust for Public Land Garden and are required to keep the garden open a minimum of 20 hours per week. Be sure to sign up for Open Hours shifts!

**Upcoming Activities:**

- Street Tree / Tree Wells Project for Vanderbilt Avenue (and surrounding streets) June 6, 2010 beginning at 1:00 pm.
- Worm Bin Workshop- with Grace & Liz June 6, 2010 beginning at 11:00 am. They will be providing Worm Bins & worms for those who ordered (at the recent block party) & setting them up
- GreenThumb Workshop on Street Tree Care on Saturday June 12, 2010.

Thanks & applause to Phil, Grace, Liz & Virginia for arranging these activities.

We have been entered in the Greenest Block in Brooklyn Contest- we won 2nd Place last year;

Ratify April's minutes- 19 aye, 0 nay, 1 abstain      Ratify May Minutes- 21 aye, 0 nay, 1 abstain

**Project Proposals & General Discussions:**

If you would like an idea to be considered by the Membership, have a proposal ready for discussion at a meeting. You can also email suggestions to the listserv.

Open Hours/ Garden Access Proposal: Previously, Carl pointed out that the garden should be open to visitors as much as possible and therefore proposed anytime one has the gate open with the Welcome sign out that should count as Service Hours, too. In this meeting, Jon expressed reservations about the system, because we have problems covering regular open hours, but the conversation was tabled until next meeting, pending a written proposal that can be fully discussed by the members.

Juniper area proposals - (ideas to use the area left vacant by the snow damaged juniper.) Last meeting 3 proposals were forwarded; Val D. suggested a grape arbor, Catherine suggested (on another's behalf) an evergreen to replace the original in order to maintain the screening it would provide and Traci suggested a communal flower cutting bed. Traci presented a rendering that addresses all three suggestions. Traci volunteered to be Project manager to coordinate. 23 aye, 0 nay, 1 abstention.

Tabling at "Summer Streets"- Vanderbilt Ave. will be closed to traffic on Sat. June 12th & Sun. June 20th & June 27th. Discussion ensued whether or not we wanted to participate and how; we decided we would have a presence & decided the program what would be presented each day. Topics will include "Worm Bin composting", "Tree well & tree care" and "Who we are as a community resource". Coordinators to arrange time slots for garden members to sit at the table: Ruth June 12th, Jon P. June 20th, & Grace June 27th. 23 aye, 0 nay, 0 abstain.

**Fiscal Sponsorship by Open Space Institute:** Johanna & Phil- following up with previous meetings' questions, Johanna explained that our being a part of Open Space Institute (OSI) would not be in conflict with our association with The Trust for Public Land (TPL), it would give us the opportunity to have an un-taxed bank account, non-profit status, we would be tax exempt and as such, our opportunity to apply for grants would be widened & we would pay no taxes on purchases. We could buy more plants for our annual plant sale and fund other outreach projects. OSI history: their purpose is to assist community environmental initiatives and start ups, and has worked with several groups/initiatives in the Prospect Hts. community. They also help with fundraising. 8% of our reported income would go to OSI for their administrative costs, however if we do not make deposits no percentage is deducted from our balance, and there is no other annual fee. We can leave OSI at any time. In order to avoid fiscal abuse on our end, OSI requires that we make an annual report to them and that our Board (not individuals) makes approvals for expenditures. Concerns were raised in light of the recent banking scandals "who are their officers? and how can we trust that OSI won't run off with our money?" The reply was we currently trust Phil with "keeping the money under his mattress" and to handle it responsibly; also the independent rating organization **GuideStar** can be consulted to learn about OSI's fiscal behavior. Johanna will provide additional information and documentation - links to OSI, rating agencies, etc., for Member review.

Application to OSI is in two parts- a pre-approval process for OSI to review consideration and a full application for membership in OSI.

Motion to proceed with the initial application and if they accept us for full consideration we will vote again if we wish to join OSI:  
25 aye, 0 nay 1 abstain

Garden Tidiness: Jon P.- We need to clean up the garden! The brush at the front needs to be cut & bundled, 311 will be called for pickup on Monday; Elly volunteered. Frances needs help with rebuilding her box; Jeff S. volunteered to help. Last year Cookie did an excellent job of organizing the tool shed, but right now it is a mess and needs it again; Andrea W. volunteered. We also need to figure out a wheelbarrow parking system and see which ones are in disrepair and could be used in the composing operations. Someone please provide a proposal for next meeting.

## Updates & Reports

Plant Sale: Approximately \$1000 has been raised during this year's plant sale, which will end June 6, 2010. Thanks to Virginia W. for leading the effort and to all those who participated to make it happen.

Treasury Report : Johanna -approx. \$1300 currently in the treasury; proceeds from Plant Sale will be included after the sale ends (6/6/10).

Master Gardeners' Update : Traci- Anyone interested in working on the Communal Flower Cutting Bed and/ or building the trellis, please see Traci. Virginia- everyone, please help pick up the fallen plums and apples from the ground and put them in the trash (not the compost pile). They are diseased (plum weevil & apple scab) & as we are an organic garden and don't spray, this will help prevent infection in future crops. New tools are being picked up today at the Green Thumb Supply Compound. Also, anyone interested in growing perennials for next year, please see Virginia. Jon asks that new members who don't have something specific to do, please fill the water barrels. Ask any member who has been here for a while how to operate the hose & hydrant.

Compost Update: James G. - the leaves from last autumn's leaf collection drive have been shredded by Jon P., and the shredded leaves have been working better in the compost piles, breaking down quicker. There is also a new thermometer to take the temps of the mounds. Volunteers shifts are worked out to help turn & tend the compost bins; see James G. or Johanna if you wish to participate. Participation in compost activities will count as Service Hours. Johanna -The first CSA contributions will be coming to the garden starting next week (6/10/10) . Johanna will be in the garden Thursdays at 6 pm to receive them. If you have questions or wish to participate, see Johanna.

Box Report : Ruth- several boxes have been assigned. New Assignments- Jake & Shawna are gardening the box right next to the plum tree, Meredith's plot is on the main aisle, Elly is by the apple tree; Summer loans- Silke is lending from Diana, Grace is lending from Patricia, Jeff is lending from Meredith. Moves- James G., Lisa and, Yuki moved to different plots. After the Plant Sale is over and they are cleaned out, the 3 little boxes (4'x4') in the back will be assigned also. A map will be forthcoming.

**Next Meeting: Saturday July 17, 2010 11:00 a.m. Rain date July 18, 2010 11:00 a.m.**

**Communal Workday- Summer Pruning- June 26, 2010 10:00 am**

minutes taken & typed by Traci Nottingham, Secretary