

**In attendance:**

Lisa Watkins (co-presiding)  
Jon Pope (co-presiding)  
Diana Kyrwood \*\*  
Melissa Atwood  
Lynn Armentrout  
Philip Silva  
Traci Nottingham (took notes)  
Mara Gittleman  
Brian L. Thompson  
Jean Kahler  
Valentine Douglas  
Elly Perkins  
Redelia Nottingham  
Jennifer Richman  
Catherine Orrok  
Andrea Warmington  
Jessica Stein  
Akosua Albriton  
Jennie Spector  
Frances Norwood  
Adam Rabiner \*\*  
Maria Stasavage  
\*\* -new members

**Announcements, Updates and Discussions:**

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

Compost Update: Lynn on behalf of Johanna- Currently there are two finishing piles cooking they will sit for an additional week, then be sifted and ready to use. Then two bins will be empty. Johanna will be out of town and therefore the compost team needs a volunteer to receive the Thursday CSA compost donation. Now the compost pile does not smell. Jon commends the Compost team for their perseverance tending the compost & dealing with our neighbors. Round of applause to the Compost team. Jean requests that a low, wide stable step be built (to replace the broken milk crate) to make it easier for shorter members to access the compost bins.

Ratification of June's minutes- 14 aye, 0 nay, 2 abstain

Master Gardener Updates : Traci - Flower Cutting Bed/ Grape Trellis Project is coming along; many thanks to those who are working so hard to make it come to fruition. If you wish to participate, contact Traci. We have a new push lawnmower and shade lawn seed from a June workshop at Clifton Place Mem. Garden. For those interested in seeing apiary culture, St. Mark's Ave. Community Garden (on St. Mark's bet. Vanderbilt & Carleton Aves. - behind Zaytoon's) has beehives. They tend the bees on Sundays around 11 a.m. Round of applause to Traci for her efforts. Catherine- We cleared obstructing branches and did general trimming, such that the garden is now neatened and doesn't look like too much was taken away. Jon notes the 311 has been called again - they did not pick up the first time they were called- they are re-scheduled for July 20.

Proposed Watering Schedule during the extreme hot weather: discussions ensued- barrel filling, how frequently to water the common areas, when, what happens if it rains, etc. We agreed that watering the communal / public areas should happen once a week during Sunday Open Hours and only when it is very dry. Watering individual boxes : whoever is doing the Sunday watering should only water the boxes that have a green marker indicating they want their bed watered. Jen R. suggested that we have a Watering Sign-in List indicating where one has watered so that areas don't get double watered. Notice of this new action will be via email & paper posting in the garden.

Akosua asked what should be happening with the plant sale plants since it is difficult keeping up watering them. Jean K. suggested planting them in our tree pits; Catherine noted it is a lot of work keeping the potted plants watered & suggested giving them away instead of letting them get overly root bound and/or die off. Redelia notes that the leftover plants in the 4'x4' boxes are dying too and are contributing to mosquitoes and mice - she has seen them and it is a good hiding place for them. Catherine volunteers to contact Virginia to find out which plants are plant sale plants and which plants were designated for the Vanderbilt Ave. tree wells first. Members should see Jean K. if they want to participate in planting in our tree pits.

Treasury Report : Phil-current balance \$1658.58, not including plant sale proceeds. For the future, Phil proposes we have an internal 'grant fund' for garden projects. Something to keep in mind as a tool to help us in budgeting and formalize our spending.

Street Tree Vandalism: Phil- Many trees have been damaged beyond their normal capacity for self repair however if the damaged trees get supportive attention so that they aren't otherwise stressed, they may recover. This includes watering mulching & nutrition. The man accused of causing the damage around the neighborhood may or may not be in custody. If you witness an act of tree vandalism & are willing to make a statement to Park's dept. notify Parks Dept and please let Phil know also. Phil is keeping track so that public officials have a clear accounting and documentation of reports. Next weekend and the weekend following (July 24, 25 & 31) Phil and a local choreographer will be leading Street Tree Care / Dance Movement workshops and Street Tree Mapping Project. Prospect Hts. is the test case for a new map that hopefully will be citywide. All are welcome to participate. Kudos and applause to Phil.

Plant Sale leftovers: If we are buying so many plants & have them left over and have to keep them from dying why are we buying so many plants for the plant sale? It was explained that there were a batch of plants intended for the Vanderbilt Ave. median tree wells, but approval from the City must be obtained first so that the plants won't be ripped out by D.O.T. like last year. Approval is still pending. Also, there has been better tracking this year of what was purchased vs. what was sold, therefore hopefully we will have a better handle on this for next year. A request for sorting the plants was forwarded; it was suggested that members take one of the hardy perennials and plant it in a tree well in front of their house.

Farming Concrete Update: Mara- 70 gardens have signed up to track edible harvests from their individual beds. Please sign up if you want to participate. There is a notebook and scale in the shed to log the weights of your harvests. You can weigh your compost contributions also. If you'd like to help map other gardens contact Mara via the listserve or at [mara@farmingconcrete.com](mailto:mara@farmingconcrete.com). Round of applause for Mara's efforts.

Akosua suggested planting by the lunar cycle. She will be posting info to the listserve.

Please sign up for Open Hours - the calendar is in the bulletin board.

**Next Meeting: *Wednesday* Aug 18, 2010 6:30 p.m. Rain date *Thursday* Aug 18, 2010 6:30 p.m.**

minutes taken & typed by Traci Nottingham, Secretary