

Governing Body Meeting

Sat. September 11, 2010 10:25- 11:00 pm

Attendees : Lisa W., Johanna, Jon Pope, Ruth M., Catherine, Phil S., Traci; Jon presiding

Agenda: Open Space Institute application status; TPL / BQLT/ BANG options; Open Access hours

Open Space Institute: The Fiscal Sponsorship application has been submitted to OSI. They take legal issue with the phrase "dues" in our Bylaws as the term "dues" implies that we are providing a service in exchange for monies, which is not the case. Since they are a non-profit they cannot handle any monies collected that are dues. If we were under the umbrella of OSI, we would need to revise our Bylaws' wording to something else. One suggestion was "Annual Key Fee & Suggested Donation" and the Key Fee would serve to keep petty cash on hand & the Donation would go to our OSI account. One question raised was "what about the annual key fee for those who don't come back?" One alternative solution suggested was to have a combination lock.

Trust for Public Land status: Though our garden is safe from development, we should be looking at the next step from TPL to a local Land Trust as they only expected to hold threatened gardens temporarily, then transfer them to the local Land Trusts. TPL is beginning to pressure their gardens to organize and it is better to do it now in a considered process rather than make a snap decision later under duress. To that end, the GB began to consider solutions. The original option is the Bklyn-Queens Land Trust (BQLT) which tends to have a direct hands on approach to running their member gardens (sometimes dictatorially) whose organization may be a bit more informal than ours, with input from outsiders and not the actual gardeners. If we take another path, we have the opportunity to help form the Trust organization we join. Another option is Brooklyn Association of Neighborhood Gardens (BANG) which currently comprises Carlton Bears Garden, Hollenbeck, 6/15 Green, Warren- St. Mark's and several others. These gardens have banded together as an alternative to - but not in protest to - the BQLT. For example, the deeds to the Bronx & Manhattan gardens that were saved by TPL have already been transferred to their Land Trust. That entity takes care of fundraising for big-ticket item such as replacing sidewalks where needed, fences, insurance, etc. For us, the set-up would be that our Land Trust would hold the deed to our land & we as PHCF, would lease the from them and would receive the same type of services. Currently, we do not have a lease with TPL ; in essence we are squatting. However, no garden has a lease with TPL, as that is not their operating method.

The next BANG meeting is at Ozzie's (on 5th Ave & President) Sept. 16, 2010 at 7:00 pm. Motion for Jon Pope to express interest in our joining BANG - passed unanimously.

Open Access Hours: Earlier this summer a proposal was suggested that we adopt Open Access Hours in addition to Open Hours and Service Hours. Members performing Access hours would not be in lieu of scheduled & posted Open Hours requirements, however it was noted that keeping the garden open to the public as much as possible is a good thing & should count for something as well.

After discussions it was deemed that Access Hours would not count this year, but it does help us understand when people are available and what Open Hours we could consider in the future.