

In attendance:

Phil Silva	Anna Rose Hart	Jon Pope (co-presiding)
Traci Nottingham (took notes)	Hanna Sufirin **	Jake Abraham **
Jeff Secor	Melissa Atwood	Lynn Armentrout
Brian L. Thompson	Maria Stasavage	Grace Nam
Ray Cha	Erin Hogeboom **	James Goldstein
Valentine Douglas	Lisa Watkins (co-presiding)	Jennifer Richman
Johanna Bauman	Joey DeLeo	Jennie Spector
Geoff Amend	Yuki Kitada	Ella Morganlander
Elly Perkins	Silke Torras	** -new members

Announcements, Updates and Discussions:

Introductions round robin.

Ratification of September's minutes- 15 aye, 0 nay, 2 abstain

Open Space Institute update : Jon & Phil- Our application to be fiscally sponsored by OSI has been approved during their September meeting. As per our previous votes we agreed to discuss & vote whether we wished to proceed with OSI. The **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) & Manual** from OSI have been posted to the listserv for members' review. Phil explained that there are two entities to consider - the physical garden (the boxes, plants, etc.) which Trust for Public Land holds the deed to & PHCF, i.e. the people. Trust for Public land 'lets' us use their land in exchange for making this an open space and providing a community resource. Technically there is no legal entity as Prospect Hts. Community Farm, since we are not incorporated. Currently we have \$4000. Having this sum as cash is a burden to the Treasurer and having a Garden bank account would still have tax liability for an individual, since the account would have to be in the Treasurer's name doing business as PHCF.

OSI will hold our monies which will be particularly useful when we are awarded grants. By using their setup, grants can be properly disbursed to us. (We had difficulty receiving a grant this year because we did not have a proper account & had to beg GreenThumb to help us.)

Questions & Answers:

If we outlay money on behalf of the garden, how do we get paid back? Do we have to go to them? *OSI provides requisition forms to the Treasurer for us to use, plus receipts. There is also a Petty Cash amount that is held by the Treasurer (about \$250). OSI cuts checks every Friday, so the wait for reimbursement wouldn't be long. Cash Advances can be done also, providing a budget for a project is submitted.*

Can OSI deny us any expenditure? *OSI serves as another set of eyes for accounting purposes however, they can't not give us our money when requested.*

As a non-profit, will OSI help support us with grant fundraising? *Yes, they themselves look for funding opportunities & do help their Projects too if we request it. They also provide seminars on fundraising. OSI does charge a fee for providing this service for their administrative costs; 8% for individual donations & private grants, 10% for publically sourced grants.*

If we sign the MoU today, the we would immediately be a Project of OSI and have to include that wording on all our fliers, website, etc.? *Yes, because we are becoming a legal entity & that is our legal status. We would not lose our autonomy.*

In the Manual, it says that volunteers have to sign an indemnification form? Since we are Garden volunteers do we have to sign that form? *No, we are technically considered paid members of the organization. We are not volunteers.*

In the MoU it says we can't leave OSI at any time & have our money back unless we become a part of another non-profit or become one ourselves. This seems different from earlier explanations. *Yes, that is true because of the IRS & the Tax Code. A non-profit cannot transfer money to a for-profit organization nor an individual. The rule is intended to prevent shenanigans.*

Motion to become a fiscally sponsored Project of OSI : 21 + Jean K., Virginia & Catherine via email = 23 aye, 0 nay , 2 abstentions

Storm Damage to our trees: Jon- we had tornado storm damage to our maple in the back & the mulberry tree by the water tank. The top of the mulberry tree was taken down by garden members (Trevor, Phil, James G.) & then the remaining trunk was felled by Cliff

(head arborist at Greenwood Cemetery) & cut into seat-sized logs. While the broken maple branch was being removed, it hit the pin cherry beneath and cracked the top open, requiring it's removal as well. Regarding the large mulberry in the back of the garden: Cliff examined it & it "is in structurally sensitive place" & weakening. The crack at the bottom will keep healing by adding more & more bark eventually cracking the lower part of the tree open, splitting it in two. Cliff offered to remove the leaning trunk for \$300 or the entire tree for \$400, providing we serve as his ground crew. Jon has also spoken with Joanne Morse of TPL about the mulberry; if it broke it would be TPL's insurance responsibility for any damage claims to others' property and therefore is glad that we are taking initiative to resolve a potential problem. It was suggested that we could ask TPL to assist with the cost of removal but Joanne says they are really low on funds, and would consider splitting the cost with us or could pay for it completely if required. It was deemed that we could be fiscally responsible & shoulder the costs.

Discussions pros & cons of removing the mulberry: con- we need the shade during the middle of the hot summer; pros- gives more planting boxes better sun, we wouldn't have the berry mess, the pagoda dogwood would grow better. Motion to remove the rear mulberry tree this winter while the garden is in low use - 17 aye, 0 nay, 2 abstentions. Lisa volunteered to bring snacks & desserts that day.

Deed Holding: Jon- currently TPL holds our deed; we will need to address our status in the coming year as TPL only intended to hold garden deeds temporarily. NY TPL is getting pressure from their national office to do something with the gardens they hold. Options include Bklyn-Queens Land Trust (BQLT) and Brooklyn Alliance of Neighborhood Gardens (B.A.N.G.). We have never joined BQLT because they are disorganized. We could consider them but BQLT has not yet provided financial information to us as requested this past late Spring. BANG is trying to form a land trust. Jon requests that we all do research on BQLT's & BANG's websites so that we can have informed conversations next year. BANG meetings are every Thursday evening at the 5th Avenue location of Ozzie's and is open to all who wish to participate in the discussions.

Compost Update: James G. & Johanna -The Compost team has decided to do Leaf Collection again this year; it will begin on Pumpkin Smash day, Nov. 6th. Leaves will be shredded so the same problems as last year don't crop up. Along with leaf collection we may do a Compost Give-Away as people bring in leaves. Jennifer R. volunteered to hand out flyers at GAP Farmer's Market. Jon advises that he met with the Director of Brooklyn Bridge Park; they will take excess leaves off our hands.

Pumpkin Smash Potato Bake Bash - Saturday, November 6, 2010 from 2pm - 5pm Rain date Nov 7, 2010 2- 5 pm. Kayla will be providing the potatoes and Lisa volunteered to cook them. Lisa also made a sign-up sheet you wish to bring something else (refreshments, desserts, etc). Contact the listserv or see the bulletin board in the Garden. Ruth previously offered to do Pumpkin Painting & Face Painting with kids; Marcy previously volunteered to do tarot card readings for donations to benefit the Garden. Maria agreed to make the flyer. Johanna will make a separate flyer for the Leaf Collection which starts the same day.

Master Gardener Updates : Traci - Catherine mentioned last meeting that we should schedule a Fall Pruning and Garden Cleanup day soon- suggested date would be the week following PSPBB, Nov. 13, 2010. Folks with small hands, if you are looking for small gloves, check out WomanUp Store 708 Washington Ave. between Prospect Pl. & St. Mark's Ave. They have various types of work gloves for garden use, inexpensively (and some fancier winter leather gloves too). Communal Flower Cutting Bed & Grape Trellis: the flower cutting bed has come to great fruition, now it is time for the trellis. A diagram for an arched trellis made of cedar that we would build and a Materials & Cost List were passed around for member review. Cost would be \$352.90. Jon explained that now that we are fiscally sponsored, we could possibly get it for "free", by giving them a tax deduction letter (like in kind exchange).

Motion to fund the Trellis project : 17 aye 0 nay 0 abstentions

Jon gives thanks to everyone who braved the high winds & cold to attend this meeting!

Ella M. presented to the members an Honor Certificate from Bklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz for our participation in the Greenest Block in Brooklyn Contest this summer.

Next Meeting & Workday: Saturday November 13, 2010 11:00 a.m. Rain date Sunday Nov. 14, 2010 11:00 a.m.

minutes taken & typed by Traci Nottingham, Secretary