

Attendees

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Jon Pope (presiding) | Adam Rabiner | Lindsay Haddix |
| Catherine Orrok | Melissa Atwood | Jennifer Richman |
| Traci Nottingham (took notes) | Frances Norwood | Jean Kahler |
| Cait Kilpatrick | Jenny Radtke | Jonathan Matz |
| Laurie Kilpatrick | Akosua Albriton | Mark Jaffe |
| Katie Heyn ** | Rosemary Palms | Andrea Warmington |
| Alexander Pierro ** | Brian Weissman ** | Eva Wang |
| Valentine Douglas | Jon Crow - BANG | Will Law |
| Kate Nixon ** | Mara Gittleman | |
| Barb Withers (visiting) | Judy Janda - BANG | **= new members |
| Silke Torras | Sarah Wessler ** | |

Announcements, Updates and Discussions:

May Meeting 2011 minutes ratified - 12 aye 0 nay 1 abstention

Jon announced that representatives of BANG are here today to introduce their organization to us as part of our land trust decision making process. Liz is still collecting ideas for the back of the garden. If you have ideas submit them to her.

Review of recent events/ projects: Jon P. - The **Storytelling Event** at the garden by the Brooklyn Arts Council, was a success and went well.

Farming Concrete project: Mara- if you wish to participate by logging how much produce you grow see Mara. There is a scale & notebook in the shed to record or you can report via email to Mara.

Treasury Report: Jon P. on behalf of Johanna - We currently have approximately \$4954.83, ~~which includes \$1555 of member dues and the donation from the Roots video shoot in April.~~ **Since the beginning of the season, we have collected a total of \$2,625.25, which includes member dues, plant sale proceeds, and the 1,000 dollars donated for the Roots filming.**

Compost Update: Val - The compost is in better condition than last year at this time; we are expecting better compost results this year. Since we aren't getting compost material from Ft Greene GreenMarket we don't have as much compost but it is of a better quality.

Master Gardener Report : Catherine - we should schedule a communal workday soon and will post a day soon. Traci- We got a new 50' heavy duty hose & hand pruners at the Green Thumb supplies give away in early June. Also, if you have unwanted - but useful plants - please let people know & share.

BANG introduction by Jon P.:

Jon Crow & Judy Janda- BANG was created in the mid 90's as an activist group in part as a response to Mayor Giuliani's effort to destroy community gardens across the city. Of the 11000 + city owned lots, 150 were put up for auction and of those, 120 were community gardens.

Five Gardens have been meeting recently to create BANGLT: Pacific Street Brooklyn Bears Garden, 6/15 Green & GreenSpace @ President Street, Warren- St. Mark's & PHCF. PSBBG, 6/15 Green & GreenSpace have already committed to joining the new land trust. BANGLT is in the process of incorporating and finishing the organization's Bylaws.

BANGLT was created to provide a smaller and local neighborhood organization because they wanted to band together, in comparison to BQLT which covers many neighborhoods in two boroughs, and was created out of the duress of the auctions. BANGLT only hold the deeds of member gardens & carry the necessary liability insurances. BANGLT will let gardens be self organized & self sufficient - autonomous.

Member gardens elect Representatives directly to the BANGLT Board and that is expected to be a more direct method of communication with the member gardens, nor will there be an Executive Director. This contrasts BQLT who can elect anyone to the BQLT Board.

BANGLT provides req'd insurance for the 5 member gardens & the BANGLT officers, which costs \$2000 annually. The insurance company comes through the Land Trust Alliance. For those gardens with city water, they also provide the required seasonal plumbing sign-offs.

BANGLT's mission is to stay small and is in the process of acquiring non-profit 501c3 status so that donations can be tax-deductible.

Questions & Answers:

What issues do you see with Representatives coming & working out problems? What is your experience working with a group of gardens? What issues do you foresee that will need to be addressed? It seems the only issues are water & insurance. *the BANGLT gardens are pretty self functioning & does not Anticipate much trouble from gardens because their membership dwindled away & the like. that the member gardens will be self sufficient & won't need that much aid.*

With two Land Trusts won't there be a lot of competition for funding & fundraisers? *The Bronx- Manhattan Land Trust's group fundraiser (NYC Land Trust) is interested in BANG being under their fundraising umbrella thereby providing another source of funding to BANGLT. BQLT chose not to join that organization. BANGLT also has fundraisers to pay for the annual insurances, and anticipate four fundraisers per year. They also have garden members with fundraising experience. BANGLT is not competing with BQLT and hopes they thrive as well and imagines that in the future BANGLT will be working with BQLT as well. BANGLT simply wants to keep the governance of the member gardens local.*

So to clarify the governance structure difference administratively is that with BANGLT, each garden has a Board Member whereas BQLT Board members are from the group at large? *Right, there can be multiple representations from one garden or none. Most gardens have no representation at all. There are advisory committees however they do not make policy. Only the BQLT Board does. With BANGLT if there end up being 10 gardens then the Board will become larger.*

What are member garden's responsibilities to BANGLT? Do we as a garden have to pay annual dues or do we have to hold fundraisers on BANGLT's behalf? *No there are no annual dues & no fundraiser requirement. There may be fundraisers that we all take part in like a donation table at the Greenmarket. There really isn't a huge financial burden on the land trust.*

If BANGLT is not a right fit for PHCF, then can we leave? *Yes, you are autonomous. It's your garden. You can lobby another land trust to take your deed (or form your own).*

Is BANGLT going to have paid staff & who decides that staff? *BANGLT does not intend to have a paid staff; that is why the Board is from the membership. Only if the group decides that they'd want be a much bigger organization and do more, like have formal programs. Currently there is no need for that & that is why everything is through the board & member gardens & their membership.*

When do you anticipate incorporation? *BANGLT anticipates incorporation by the end of the year. Then they will take that certificate to the IRS to obtain 501c3 status.*

How long does it take to get 501c3 status? BANGLT expect by the end of the year, but it can take as little as 3 months or up to a year.

Jon Crow will post to our listserv the current versions of all BANGLT info (Bylaws Mission Statement & Garden Letter to TPL) for PHCF member review. Thanks to Jon & Judy for their presentation!

Additional Announcements: Congratulations to Cait for completing her Bachelor's degree & Graduation this Spring from NYU.

Next Meeting: July 16th 2011 11a.m. raindate 7/17/11 11:00 a.m.

minutes taken & typed by Traci Nottingham, Secretary