

Attendees

Kayla Schwarz (co-presiding)
 Lynn Armentrout
 Silke Torras
 Laurie Kilpatrick
 Traci Nottingham (took notes)
 Ella Morgentalder
 Redelia Nottingham
 A. Klotz
 Will Law
 Catherine Orrok

Johanna Bauman
 Brian L. Thompson
 Virginia Webster (co-presiding)
 Jennie Spector
 Fran Millero
 Ruth Manning
 Jennifer Richman
 Patricia Slee
 Cookie Thompson
 Andrea Warmington

Alexandra Hayes
 Mara Gittleman
 Eric Dryden
 James Goldstein
 Jessica Stein
 Frances Norwood

**= new members

Announcements and Updates:

Before the official start of the meeting Virginia passed around the results of the Garden's soil tests conducted by fellow member Katie Heyn of BBG and her summer program group Garden Apprentice Program students. Traci will post the test reports & a map locating where soil samples were taken on the list serve.

Virginia reminded gardeners that the gate should not be left unattended. Traci reminded to check the garden before leaving so no one is locked in accidentally.

July Meeting 2011 minutes ratified - aye unanimous

Discussions:

BANG & BQLT Member Discussions: Johanna explained that members could vote today if desired- ballots are available. We are having this discussion because TPL- who holds our deed- is ready to turn over the gardens it holds to a local Land Trust.

Questions & answers:

Does the Governing Body have any inclinations to either land trust? *No, not really. Individuals of the GB have general leanings, but nothing concrete as a group.*

I've heard BQLT has been in-fighting- is that still true? *No, they have in the past but are not currently to our knowledge.*

Are there any alliance with any other groups that support BQLT & therefore would support us?

BANG requires that there is a garden representative at meetings; Can we be sure that we will have someone to go? *Probably, for either Land Trust we should participate in the organization.*

The GB members were then asked what they as individuals thought; 4 of the 9 in attendance responded. One liked that BANG is a small organization and there is direct representation for each garden but also likes BQLT because there are a lot of different gardens with different methods & we would be part of a larger community. Another thought that BQLT's diversity is a plus but was off-put by their presentation to the GB over the winter; was not certain how BQLT spends their money on the individual gardens and in general was still undecided which to join. Another GB member noted that BANG has shorter & simpler By-laws; BQLT has a lot of rules, but like their diversity also. (In response it was also noted that BANG may have many rules also, we just don't know yet.) Another member felt that the larger numbers of members of BQLT could show strength in garden rallies (if needed again); would like to consider BANG but notes they are not done with their by-laws & garden license agreements yet so we can't be exactly sure what we are joining, but we do know exactly what BQLT is. Also uncertain why BANG took so long to organize after recognizing whatever issues they could not resolve as part of BQLT.

One GB member noted that we could wait until BANG reposts their by-laws and vote after reading them.

Further conversations included the following comments:

Shouldn't we consider being culturally diverse as an issue. BANG is a few gardens in 1 neighborhood. BQLT serves many neighborhoods & many types of people.

One member recounted an observation from a gardener in the Bx, that the 2 land trust situation seems to be an instance of gardens with resources pulling away from gardens without resources, and wondered how that would play out. In reply, another member noted that perceptions are important & expressed concern that BANG seems to be a splinter group of upper middle class people separating themselves.

Additional questions :

What is the real difference between the 2 land trusts? and what is the exchange between the actual member gardens are there any cultural exchanges? *The real difference would probably appear depending on how involved we want to be as a member garden. We don't know who will participate after we decide, hopefully they will come forward! Both LT's say we would be autonomous.*

Will we be able to go to BANG for help just as we have gone to TPL for assistance for things we cannot afford (e.g. infrastructure items)? *No, that is not BANG's function. But there are other organizations that could help.* What about BQLT? *Not sure how that would work.*

Traci will send a link to the listserv to the Warren- St Marks Garden's website for a brief history of how TPL got involved and Land Trusts originated in NYC. Lynn suggests we share any of our ideas, information & any further discussions on the listserv so that we all can make well-informed decisions.

Johanna reminds everyone that all the information - both By-Laws etc, have been posted on the listserv. Audio of the BANG, BQLT & this meeting are on the garden website.

General Announcements:

Traci: Congratulations to Ella M. on her recent milestone birthday; she joins Frances as the Garden's Octogenarians!

This coming Saturday Washington Avenue will be having its annual street fair Aug 20, noon-6 pm.

Next Meeting: *SUNDAY* September 18th 2011 11:30 a.m. raindate / rain location - TBD

minutes taken & typed by Traci Nottingham, Secretary