

Meeting held at Duryea Presbyterian Church

Attendees

Elly Perkins	Kayla Schwarz	Jessica Stein - Patrick
R. Nottingham	Joey DeLeo	Bob Biegen (visiting)
Mara Gittleman	Frances Norwood	Lauren Kaplan (visiting)
Louise Brooks	Ella Morgenlander	Lisa Watkins
Aaron Dobish	Jean Kahler	Abbie Hurewitz
Lee Schere	Amelie Garin-Davet **	Akosua Albritton
Will Law	Liz Neves	Lynn Armentrout
Jeff Secor	Jennie Spector	** = new members
Alexandra Hayes	Ted DeBarbieri	
Jon Pope (presiding)	Traci Nottingham (took notes)	

The meeting began with round robin of hellos & introductions.

Jon announced that Making Brooklyn Bloom will be held at Bklyn Botanical Garden on Saturday, March 9. Alexandra Hayes will be collecting dues on behalf of Johanna as "treasurer- in-training".

Amendments to Bylaws

Jon and the Governing Body proposed to modify our Bylaws in the Officers section revising the Land Trust Representative's term to be two year to align with BANG's bylaws and election terms. We voted Unanimously to amend.

Jeff & Lynn proposed a revision to our by-laws that we could amend our by-laws mid-season in addition to the Winter meeting. Discussions followed; some felt that it would be good so that if there were by-laws issues that needed addressing they would still be fresh during the garden season but towards the end of the season not midsummer (July & Aug meetings are not always well attended); others suggested that a special bylaws meeting could be called specifically for that purpose and that there be a special procedure to introduce bylaws; some felt it should be changed only at the Winter Meeting so we would really have time to properly consider by-laws changes and was concerned that special by-laws meetings would be called often and capriciously; other concerns were also raised about bylaws changes consuming too much time during regular meetings; another suggestion was to have one annual by-laws change- but later in the year.

Jon then suggested we determine when we should have by-laws discussions- as part of a general mtg or a separate special meeting since there would be a lot of discussions and we tend to have a lot on the fall agenda; one believed that it could be done after a General meeting and whoever was interested would participate, but others disagreed pointing out that people have greater and lesser abilities to be active in the garden and that it is important to have as many people as possible to participate. We generally agreed that the vote should take place in September. Jon reminded that a lot of our day to day activities are governed by the rules and they can be changed at any time and that the By-laws relate to our governing structure.

The currently proposed amendment: That any ByLaws amendment proposal for a September meeting vote should have already been on the agenda and discussed in the July and August meetings and that written notice to the membership of such proposal has occurred at least by the July meeting before voting can take place. **15 Aye, 1 Nay, 7 Abstain**

After thanking Ruth for her hard work as Box Coordinator and given a hearty round of applause in absentia, Jon proposed that since we have such a well functioning system of tracking and accounting that maybe we could eliminate Box Coordinator officer and fold the Box Coordinator tasks into part of the Service Hour coordinator's (SHC) duties. Jean noted that if so, the SHC would also have to track meeting attendance. Redelia said we should ask the remaining SHCs if they are ok with that. Having been Box Coordinator once it is a big job and a lot of work. Will spoke for Eva saying that she would do it if no one else would. Traci asked what happens if the SHC for some reason cannot fulfill any duties, like what happened a few years ago- we would have no records (Service Hours nor Box Waiting list) at all. After discussion, Jon withdrew his by-laws proposal.

Election of New Officers

Redelia called for a round of applause for Will, Eva, Johanna, Brian and Traci for their service to the garden.

Election Announcements- Several coordinators are stepping down this year- Coordinator, Co-coordinator, Secretary, Box and Compost Coordinators; Eva, Maria, Catherine and Johanna are not present but have expressed interest in continuing their respective offices. Jennifer R. is not present but has expressed interest in office. (Note: the order of elections presented below reflect the actual sequence of events.)

Coordinator Emeritus job description- attend Governing Body (GB) meetings, as per our By-laws is a GB member and helps with any GB decisions (anyone may attend GB meetings)

Jon talked about his enlightening experiences as Coordinator - both in running the garden and dealing with the activities outside the gates that keep the garden in place like dealing with our deed transfer and having legal IRS responsibility as OSI project sponsor, working with other greening groups, etc.

Coordinator Emeritus- Both Jon and Catherine expressed interest in running for this position- Unanimous

Jon announced the Master Gardener (MG) candidates as Catherine, Traci, and Virginia; Lynn asked what are the qualifications to be Master Gardener and if there was any training. Traci explained that historically the members did not feel comfortable with the plants and that Catherine is a professional horticulturalist & NYC Certified Horticulturalist, Virginia has demonstrated extensive plant knowledge and that Traci had landscape architecture education in undergrad & grad school plus years of experience. There are Horticulture Certificate classes at BBG (8-9 classes @ \$500 ea.) so that type of training is available. Lynn suggested we define the MG criteria/ qualifications to encourage others to participate. Jean expressed she would be disappointed to see any of the three MG's not serve but wondered what happens as the garden evolves and what would happen if any of them moved away? And suggested in the future that there could be an "in-training" position for more than one year to learn. Redelia agreed with Jean but added that a MG really has to know what all the plants and shrubs are and how to care for them and that Catherine and Traci have tried to teach but that people don't stay committed and just fade away. Also, the "in-training" position could become difficult if there are 3 MG's telling a trainee different things to do. Jenny S. suggested that the MG's should be required to give classes. Kayla felt that it would be good to have more knowledge, maybe classes for gardeners and the public too. Traci pointed out that just last year there was the "Ask the Master Gardener" event in conjunction with NYCCGC and sadly, no one from our garden came. Lisa added that she has taken the garden tour/orientation several times and that Traci teaches a lot in them and has been open to anyone tagging along in order to learn.

Master Gardeners- Traci Nottingham Unanimous
Catherine Orrok, Unanimous, less 1 Abstention
Virginia Webster Unanimous, less 1 Abstention

Communications Coordinators job description: Adding new members to and maintaining the listserve, keeping our website current.
Communications Co-Coordinator - Maria Stasavage Unanimous less 2 abstentions Will Law unanimous

Box List Coordinator- Joey de Leo Unanimous less 1 abstention
Service/ Open Hours Coordinator- Eva Wang (in absentia) Unanimous

Co-Compost Coordinator- Lee Schere Unanimous

Land Trust Representative job description: represent PHCF at BANG-LT meetings, report back to the garden membership, serve on BANG- LT's board as a legally responsible member of that corporation.
Land Trust Rep. - Kayla Schwarz Unanimous

Compost Coordinator- Jennie Spector Unanimous

Secretary- Jennifer Richman (in absentia) Unanimous
Co-Secretary- Jean Kahler Unanimous

Treasurer- Johanna Bauman (in absentia) Unanimous
Co- Treasurer - Brian Thompson (in absentia) Unanimous
Alexandra Hayes has stepped up to be Treasurer in training for a year. If either Treasurer moves on at least someone will have some familiarity with our dealings with OSI, etc. (this is not a full GB position)

Land Trust Rep. alternate - Ted DeBarbieri Unanimous
Coordinator- Jeff Secor Unanimous
Co- Coordinator- (Akosua nominated Traci, however Traci declined) Lynn Armentrout 18A 2N 2 Abs

Co- Box List Coordinator- Jessica Stein Unanimous

Description of SHC duties were explained: keep track of service and Open hours, post Open Hours sign-up calendar in the garden.
Service/ Open Hours Co-coordinator - nominations: Akosua Albritton (self -nominated because she wanted to participate more in the garden) & Will Law

Akosua 8 aye, Will 9 aye; Will was elected as Service Hours co-coordinator, Akosua agreed to Service Hours coordinator-in- training

Announcements, Updates and Discussions:

Kayla- This winter, the 6 member gardens were conveyed to BANG Land Trust from Trust for Public Land. BANG has overhead expenses, for example insurance from Land Trust Alliance for all the BANG Gardens and the BANG Board members and therefore each garden will have to contribute finances to support BANG. We will have to pay our part of BANG's the expenditures; BANG has not decided how they are going to assess gardens for fundraising amongst the gardens. BANG is also looking for grant writers, too. BANG will be getting some money from City Council but it is a reimbursement grant, so the money has to be spent first. Bears and 6/15 Gardens have laid out money to BANG and will be reimbursed from the City Council grant. Garden insurance is about \$1300 and Board member insurance is about \$1600. Jon explained that insurance is needed for corporation board members for liability purposes. There were other one time fees like conveyance fees but there are no office rent expenses. Kayla will find out the rest of the expenses and report back to us.

BANG will be have its Annual Meeting on Sunday April 7 at noon at BBG 1000 Washington Ave. in Room 238. All are invited!

During discussion about BANG expenditures, city water faucets in some of the other gardens were addressed. The gardens who have water have ended up relying on their nearby fire hydrants because the water bills are sometimes very high. Those gardens could collect rainwater but for example, Bear's Garden on Pacific would have difficulty rain water harvesting because of their neighbors. We decided that we would be happy to pay our part of insurance costs, but that we didn't not want to pay for other gardens' water expenditures because each garden is supposed to be autonomous and self supporting.

Vote to pay for insurance but not water expenses: 13 Aye, 2 Nay, 5 Abs

Jon opened up the discussion to any other pressing topics

Traci suggested that we discuss members doing 50% of required Service Hours being done as Open Hours - this was tabled for next time.

April 15 is "pay dues date" and May 1 is the "till your box date"

Kayla suggested as a topic for future discussion: to encourage participation and to possibly help get more Open Hours covered, a point system to allot boxes to members, e.g. you move up the box waiting list quicker if you do more work, if you don't do anything you fall off the list. Jon suggested anyone interested in this to see 6/15 Garden's methods for reference contact Sheila McDevitt. Lynn asked whether or not Ruth (Box Coord.) was already doing this informally? Traci confirmed this system already exists within the Box Coordinator's duties- if you do your hours, you maintain your position on the waiting list; if you do some hours, you get dropped to the bottom of the list; if you do no, hours you fall off the list. Redelia added that was the method she used when she was Box Coord. Joey felt we should look at how boxes turn over- even if you meet the May 1 Till Date and then you don't care for your plot for the rest of the season (abandonment) there seems to be no way to penalize. Jon disagreed because he has had to enforce those penalties. There's also the question of what constitutes abandonment.

Will checked the By-laws and saw that Service hours requirements are part of them and if we were going to change them we should do so now. Jon then proposed that 50% of required Service Hours be done as Open Hours, Will felt we should increase the number of required hours explained that even if that were done, we still wouldn't cover the necessary Open Hours. Jon then moved to table the discussion until a future date, when we have more info and pick up discussions on required Service hours over the course of the season. Redelia wondered if anyone could come up with at way to make people fulfill their responsibilities; even if we add more required hours, if people don't want to do it they won't.

Jeff proposed that we have a workday on March 16 but will send out an email to confirm.

Jon announced that Catherine called for a pruning workday for this weekend - likely Saturday March 2 at 10 am, but Catherine will confirm via the listserve.

Next Meeting & Workday: Saturday, April 6, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. Raindate Sunday 4/7/12

minutes taken & typed by Traci Nottingham, Secretary