

PHCF November 9th 2013 Garden Meeting 1:06PM - 1:54PM

Attendance:

Jeff Secor	Redellia Nottingham
Catherine Orrok	William Law
Brian Thomspson	Neil Richardson
Lee Schere	Johanna B
Traci Nottingham	Lisa Watkins
Eva Wang	Jennifer Richman
Hans Steiner	

New Members:

Matt Fleischer-Black
Stav Birnbaum

Meeting Minutes:

Brief introduction by Jeff - This is our last meeting of the year.

Treasury Report:

Brian: Financials that received today for October, our OSI account (Open Space Institute) balance is \$2444.54 which includes \$210 in Shrub Sale income as well as a couple new member dues collected. Does not include the \$100 from Carlton Bock Association.

Jeff: (Brief overview for new members Matt and Stav about the garden). This is the last growing season meeting of 2013. The next meeting will be our Winter meeting in February 2014. Next official growing season meeting will begin again next April of 2014. There will still be projects to do over the winter but not as much as during the growing season.

Compost Report:

Lee: Leaf drop collection will be the next 3 Sundays from 10AM -2PM. It started during the pumpkin smash. Compost team is collecting bagged leaves and is asking that they be placed in the pen in the back of the garden. It is a great way to do some service hours, being that each Sunday needs 4 hours to be covered. (10AM - 12PM and 12PM-2PM). Compost team needs someone to be present in the garden to cover the shift. All bags dropped off must only be filled with leaves. We cannot accept plants, etc and those items must be placed separately in compost. Lee presented 5 flyers for garden members to post in advertisement for leaf collection project.

Lee: Oak leaves are not our favorite. They are hard to break down and need to be shredded.

Catherine: Oak leaves are great acidifiers.. Agrees that they need to be shredded.

Lee: Tomorrow is a compost workday.

BANG report:

Jeff: BANG Fundraiser meeting will be held on Monday, November 11th, 7PM at "The Gate" on 5th Ave. and 3rd St. in Park Slope. Kayla, our current BANG representative is asking for a PHCF garden member to attend BANG fundraiser meeting. BANG is looking for an official PHCF representative on their fundraising committee. At the least, she is asking that someone commit to being present at this upcoming meeting.

Will: Perhaps we can find someone to cover the position for a couple of months?

Jeff: Offers to attend this upcoming meeting and the following meeting until we find someone to represent permanently.

Jennifer: Reminds that Kayla mentioned that BANG was also looking for garden members to contribute to their bake sale. No one from PHCF was able to commit to that.

Catherine: Suggest we let BANG know that we are planning to make the PHCF representative on the BANG fundraiser committee an official position.

Secretary report:

Jennifer: Minutes for September were sent to the list serve for review this morning. October minutes have not yet been sent to list serve.

Condolences to Jean and her family

Service Hours report:

Eva: 1,041 service hours have been recorded so far this year. Pretty impressive, last year it was only in the 800's. If anyone is concerned about their hours, they are up to date and will be posted in the box in the front as well as on the website.

General Announcements:

Will: We need have an issue with putting the irises into pots as well as plants for the Spring sale, shrub sale plants.

Where should be keep the pots? What is a good designated spot?

Jeff: any suggestions?

William: What about the back of the garden? We did that in the past.

Catherine: That is not a good long term storage solution.

Redellia: We had a spot for that but then it started being used as a box again...Jennie Spector's box. It is basically out of commission. Too much shade. You can't grow anything in it. No one ever really wanted it and the two people who have had it lately have complained.

Brian: It is a box right now...

Johanna: I had a conversation with Jennie and Ruth, she is open to the idea of her box going out of commission. It is worthless. It may be better to do something else with the box that could

be useful for the whole garden, whether it as a storage box or something else. It was discussed that maybe the box should go out of commission.

Jeff: Traci, you said last year that you don't like the line against the fence by our neighbor. What about doing that, putting in new soil to give it a sheltered space along the fence? The whole line along the fence.. there are a few rose bushes but there is not really anything else much in there.

Traci: It's not that I don't like it, the concern is the plants would be in a rain shadow. When the rain comes down, it will cascade over the tree, not underneath the tree. That is why we hide underneath trees so that we don't get wet when it rains. A good place in my thoughts would be where they naturally get watered and when it's very dry weather, we water it ourselves. It tends to be dry underneath the tree.

Jeff: I understand. This whole line, behind the apple tree till the raspberry tree there is about 20 something feet.

Johanna: There might be something that we could plant there that would be ok.

Traci: For longterm storage, for example, Will has done some cuttings, they don't grow instantaneously like seeds would. We are looking at long time storage for these things, also where they could get protection from the sun.

Jeff: Jennie's bed is also under the tree so that would not solve the problem, more so than along the fence.

Redellia: We pruned the plum tree.

Jeff: The tree has grown since then. Are there any other ideas of where we can put them?

Catherine: Along the fence does not seem like a bad idea. It is out of the way.

Will: The back of the garden is another idea. Maybe we can integrate it into the back of the garden plan. It is more of a utility area, not just ornamental.

Jeff: We need a place where we can do this now.

Will: I do feel that it could be fine if it were under a tree, at least it could be sheltered from the sun.

Lee: I haven't really heard anything against the side of the garden and the box. They are both under trees..

Johanna: The other thing about that area, we could also potentially create another sitting area under the plum tree in the place where that box is. If we got rid of that box, it is a large enough space that we could possibly accommodate a table and a chair. We were looking at the space for that purpose.

Lee: Not a bad idea.

Traci: I don't discount what you are saying, In one of our meetings, Ana had suggested that we have a seating area under the dogwood tree, close to the children's dig box.

Jeff: Lets get back to the area for the pots and seedlings. Sidewall, What about Jennie's bed which can possibly be turned over this winter?

Brian: We don't turn over boxes until the beginning of the new season. Unless someone wants give up their box today, box holder hours are accumulated through the winter until the next season which is the February meeting. You don't lose your box unless your hours are not met.

Catherine: We should probably get the box coordinator in on this..

Jeff: Joey said that there is a lot of house cleaning to do. He has not given out the new list yet. (for clarification) There is a waiting list, people usually wait one or two years for a box, depending on how many people are waiting. This list needs to be cleaned up because there are people who say that they want a box and then disappear. A new list needs to be sent out. A number of people will be losing their box and new members will be gaining boxes. Those who already have a box have priority to upgrade.

Eva: We won't really know about hours until May, where hours are added up and evaluated. People can do their service hours through February, until the day of the Winter meeting. I would say the predominant option is to do compost hours.

Catherine: The Christmas tree collection also.

Jeff: Lets not sacrifice a box then and keep to the rules.

Lisa: I want to upgrade to a more sunny spot.

Jeff: You talked to Joey recently about this. I am not sure if you told Joey a while ago. You should have been on the upgrade list which he is responsible for keeping tabs on. He needs to report about that directly. Those who already have a box have priority to upgrade. Once those people are done, then we give allot boxes to new people.

Catherine: That happens in the beginning of the season

Jeff: Back to where we were supposed to put those seedlings

Jennifer: What about where we used to store the plants last year? Last time we used to store potted plants in that area and under the dogwood and in the back by the 4ft. by 4ft. boxes.

Catherine: Are we trying to find a spot for now for over the winter until there is a designated spot? Someplace out of the way.

Will: Agrees that maybe we should store plants in the back and in one of the communal beds and then we can worry about a long term solution.

Jeff: One of the communal beds in the back would be a full sized bed which no one is going to use. I doubt people are going to want that for the winter. There is also that side wall and if someone wants to volunteer their bed. Is that going to be enough space for what you want to pot up?

Traci: I think so. I would be more inclined to use the area by the tree because people who don't know what is going on, "is it dead or not dead?" and may play around with the pots.

Jeff, Catherine: If we put a sign, it may help but wont solve the problem.

Traci: I will go along with it but know that people always miss the sign.

Jeff: We can put down fresh soil and compost to re-vamp the area.

Brian: Have we decided on a spot?

Jeff: We will use one of the communal beds in the back (making it designated, putting a laminated sign by the communal bed which will be used as a nursery) and the area along the side wall. Who ever is using the communal beds in the back, don't throw things out.

Brian: Why don't we just pick one space? Do we need both?

Catherine: Keep it simple... What are more than what is already going to be potted up?

Jeff: What are the objections to keeping it along the side fence?

Will: I don't mind too much. We really only need one space. We were thinking to dig up the small dogwood trees in the front as well as what we had originally planned on.

Traci: It could work for now as a temporary permanent nursery.

Jeff: We are having a bulb planting work day after this so stick around after the meeting. It is agreed that the area along the side of the fence will be the nursery. We should buy some bags of soil, revamp the area, the area near the wall can be made pretty again.

Jeff: There is a website <http://farmingconcrete.org> where you can log your harvesting. You would need to login and it is a user friendly website. You'd say which community garden you are affiliated with and what you are harvesting, how much, etc. Home owners can do it to if they have a garden. Suggests get in touch with them.

Jennifer: Concerned about Monsanto getting a hold of that info!
Also, what is happening with the boxes in the back? They were supposed to be made into 8ft. by 4ft. boxes. Now I see a bench, what is going on?

Jeff: We are waiting for more lumber to finish the boxes in the back.

Lisa: Can I use some of this pressure treated lumber in the front?

Jeff: Yes! Please take it. Traci wants to build a deck out of it but we may have extra.

Traci: We voted for the deck to be made, we accepted the vote but we did not have man power to do it. Now we do. Lets get the deck project done! Now is the time to do it. We still have the material to do that.

Jeff: After the pumpkin smash and during the plant sale, it was helpful to have the flat surface. We do have a plan and the man power to build it (wisecracks here - we all got a good laugh).

Redellia: Also we should rebuild the children's box. It was made out of pressure treated wood and is not fair to the children.

Jeff: When we get our lumber order, we have to remember to order wood for the children's box.

Traci: Presents some sketches... A one tier deck that would basically conform to the space that is already there. It starts at the notch in the wall.

Jeff: Another idea is a two tier deck that is longer and accommodates the raise in the ground. It would provide two steps. (Another sketch presented) may be more of an amphitheater and start about where the grill is.

Traci: We may not want to encroach upon the windows that are there. Would not be a good idea to raise the ground area under them.

Jeff and other members agree about not building the deck under the windows.

Jeff: The deck will be a project done over the winter. It will conform to the space that is already there. Traci is in charge of making the deck and we will call some work days over the winter to build the deck. Bat house also already voted on as well.
Anything else?

Will: What about the back of the garden? It is less motivating to talk about it over the spring.

Catherine: There is more enthusiasm in the Spring. Lets talk about it then.

Traci: The pear tree. It is dormant now but we need to think about placing it.

Jeff: I spoke to Ruth and she may be interested in taking it as a back up plan. Lets keep it where it is over the winter. Next season, lets talk about it.

Lee: Compost work day tomorrow and the next two sundays after that. There is the leaf drop as well from 12-2PM. Composting will go on through the winter. From 10AM to 12PM it is too cold so we it was changed to 12PM-2PM.

Catherine: Christmas Tree drop off/mulching. Virginia was here to organize it last year as well as John. It requires a lot of work.

Brian: John was in touch with the parks department and organized the chipper being here.

Catherine: We are designated as a mulch site and we are a drop off spot for the neighborhood. People are going to drop of their trees regardless, we have to do it.

Lisa mentioned that her building already assumes that we will do it.

Brian: Agrees to step up, communicate with the parks department and lead the Christmas tree/mulching project.

Jeff: Asks that Brian will organize them to bring a chipper here.

Next meeting is the Winter meeting is in February 2014.

Minutes recorded and typed by Jennifer Richman, garden co-secretary.