

Prospect Heights Community Farm

Garden Meeting, May 3, 2014, 11:05 a.m. -12:04 p.m.

Present: Louise Brooks, Ted De Barbieri, Alexis Casano-Antonellis, Vanessa Chakour, Joanne Dittersdorf, Aaron Dobisn, Val Douglas, Martha Elliot, Lindsay Haddix, Abbie Hurwitz, William Law, Ruth Manning, Justin Miller, Bree Mosley, Frances Norwood, Redelia Nottingham, Traci Nottingham, Rosemary Palms, Neil Richardson, Hans Steiner, Pnina Talias, Brian Thompson, Eva Wang, Kendall Warsan (visitor), Virginia Webster, Jesse Wrenn (new member),

Neil started the meeting with a welcome to new members, and reminding us all that today is the deadline for paying dues. New members can pay Neil and get a key; and then an orientation to the garden from Traci.

Minutes from the April meeting were approved.

Coordinator updates:

Treasurer -- Neil reported for the treasurers that our account holds \$1,845, plus petty cash on hand is \$322.

Compost -- Val said that the cold winter slowed the composting process, so not much is available right now. Neil reported that the grant he applied for was awarded -- \$450 from the Citizens' Committee of NYC to be used to weigh and record how much we put into our compost system. Composters will meet this Tuesday, May 6, at 8 p.m. at Lee's place, 123 Prospect Place, Apt. 3, to plan on how best to use the grant money.

Service hours -- Eva will post the hours soon, and urged us to sign up for open hours now for May and June.

BANG -- Ted told us the latest news from this association of 5 community gardens. BANG's May meeting will take place on Thursday, May 15 in Warren St Marks garden. "The usual meeting time is 7 PM-- sunset is 8:06 that day, so please be prompt in order to fully enjoy the garden before the last rays grow dim." Also, we are covered under BANG's umbrella insurance policy in case of accidental injury in the garden.

Master gardeners

-- Traci is supervising the flower bed for cutting, and welcomes helpers.

-- Virginia said the plant sale this year would be under Ruth's management. The dates are May 4, 10, and 11, 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. Volunteers needed: please sign up for 2-hour shifts. Today, during our work day, Traci will supervise the digging up of extra plants from the garden suitable for the plant sale.

School children visiting the garden -- Virginia told us about pre-K and K children from P.S. 705 visiting on May 2. They had a great time, especially enjoying the compost system and the bat house. They took home kits containing bat activities. Other school children are expected: P.S. 9, schools bringing beneficial bugs; Excellence Boys Charter School is looking for service

activity opportunities and want to come on May 19; Luria Academy has been interested in planting annuals in one of our boxes, which prompted a lengthy discussion leading to Virginia offering to discuss alternatives like street tree care, signage for tree care, and care of tree pits (we were reminded that our children's bed is for members' families only).

Brooklyn Botanic Garden giveaway -- Ruth will go this week to collect available plants.

Wildlife Habitat designation -- Suggested by BANG, we donate \$25 and get a plaque. Jean had volunteered to be liaison; Brian will be her back-up.

Hose stand -- Johanna has suggested that we move this stand in order to open up space for gatherings. Conditioned on Catherine's (our expert arborist) approval of trimming the evergreen next to the stand, the motion was passed to move the stand (17 for, 0 against, 6 abstaining).

Pile of lumber -- Virginia said that it must go: it's treated, it's rotting. Brian added that it's a shelter for rats.

Chickens -- Kendall, a Parsons student, presented a plan for a hypothetical chicken coop in the garden. If interested in exploring a real project with her, contact her through the executive committee.

Book drive -- Traci proposed a June fundraiser to collect used books and sell them. Vanessa and Lindsay volunteered to coordinate the effort. We agreed to open the event to the whole community.

Bat house -- Hans asked about where it will go and offered to help install it. Ruth suggested either the side of the house on the west side of the garden (for warmth), or on a pole in the back of the garden. Joanne, Will, Val, and Eva will see that it gets painted and installed.

Minutes submitted by Rosemary Palms, co-secretary