

**Prospect Heights Community Farm Saturday, June 7th 2014 Meeting Minutes**  
**11:04AM-12:16PM**

Meeting Attendance

Aaron Dobish

Mia Torres

Virginia Webster

Joe De Leo

Jessica Stein Patrick

Alex Hayes

Martha Elliot

Lisa Watkins

Brian Thompson

Louise Brooks

Francis Norwood

Ruth A. Manning

Eva Wang

William Law

Jeff Secor

Traci Nottingham

Neil Richardson

Jennie Spector

Kayla Schwartz

Abbie Hurewitz

Hans Steiner

Redellia Nottingham

Vanessa Chakour

Jennifer Richman

new members:

Christine Wrenn

Tyrell Pyatt

Vigdis Fosheim

Kira Copbin

Rachael Glicksman

Iruka Brown

Rene John-Sandy II

Joey Van-Scyoc

Ian Hartz

June Meeting minutes:

Brief introduction by Neil to garden members and new members

Box Coordinator Report by Joey

All boxes have been assigned, Brian has lent his box to Eva for this season, there are 15 people on the wait list for a box. Thank you for all garden members who helped in making the new boxes.

During the meeting, Traci asked that a new box map be placed in the shed for members. Joey will be updating the map and email it as well as post a new one in the shed.

Communications Report by Will

Will has been made aware that new members have been having difficulty with the list serve. If so, please email Will or send an email to the website.

Service Hours Coordinator Report by Eva

Updated hours (until May 2014) have been printed out and placed on the bulletin board. Eva also passed around the June/July calendars for people to please sign up.

Neil explained Open Hours requirements to new members including the location of the open hours sign up sheet, If someone cannot make it, please cross out your name so that someone else knows to fill the slot, and there are a maximum of two members at a time who can sign up per shift.

Reminder to members and new members: 60% of service hours requirements need to be completed as open hours - meaning 6 hours for non-box holders and 12 hours for box holders.

Ruth Manning was congratulated for already completing over 50 service hours.

#### Compost Report by Neil

We have a supply of compost ready to be used located in the black compost bin. PHCF has won a grant to weigh the compost. The scale is currently in the design stages. There will be a Compost Meeting at 10AM this Sunday, June 8th about where to put the items involved in the project (scale, etc).

#### Treasury Report by Alex

We have \$1865.56 in the OSI account (including \$20 from Traci, as made from plant sale) and \$322.00 in petty cash

Instead of giving garden dues to Neil, please give them to Alex today..

#### Plant Sale Report by Ruth

PHCF made over \$1,000.00 in plant sale profits (about \$1,400.00)

We spent \$348.00 and earned more than double the amount spent.

Thank you for the people who helped with the plant sale.

All the window boxes have been sold

Ruth announced that the hours she completed were mostly from the plant sale and she recommended that anyone who is looking to do more service hours help with next year's plant sale. It is a great way to earn hours.

#### Master Gardener's Report by Traci

Thank you to Jeff, Mia, Aaron, (and anyone else who I missed) for helping with the making of the deck. Also thanks to Louise, Redellia, (and anyone else who I missed) for helping out as well.

Nursery Report:

We sold 12 shrubs, 7 Dogwoods. \$112.50 was made from nursery plants during the plant sale.

Virginia/ Traci - There was a shrub that was altered without approval or vote - Discussion about it being mentioned as being an illegal tree, Katherine said it was an American Holly.

Traci asked that there be no unauthorized pruning/plant removal please. Reminded members that there is a weed ID guide on the bulletin board as well as on the garden resources page in our website.

Neil - Suggested making it more clear about who is the steward of a given communal area in the garden. If a person sees something planted in the garden and does not like it, they cannot just pull it out. We should assign someone to be in charge so we minimize this type of confusion in the future. Plan to discuss next board meeting.

## Community Events/School Visit Reports by Neil, Jeff, and Jennifer

Jennifer: The League Treatment Center class visit on Thursday, May 29th was a success and very much enjoyed by the students, teachers, and parents. There were a total of 5 pre-school students with special needs - all carrying a diagnosis of autism. They painted pots and rocks, planted seeds in the new 4 foot extension to Jennifer's bed, played in the children's dirt box, and smelled herbs from the herb circle. The teachers were especially grateful because they had tried doing a similar event at BBG but there was over a \$100.00 fee.

Neil: There are 8th grade students who want to learn about composting and visit the garden on June 17th. Zakeeb is in charge of this event.

There will be a book drive at the end of the month.

Neil - I received an email from a person doing a 5 minute documentary style movie about our garden. They would like to interview older members of our garden as part of the documentary as to learn more about the history of the garden. They are working on a project called "Leave it Better" - working with schools, community gardens, with emphasis on growing food. If you are interested in being interviewed or helping in any way, please speak to Neil.

Jeff - The Five Borough Farm Data/Metric Collection is a project that creates data and metrics by tracking what is being grown in local community gardens. Jeff is interested in PHCF being a part of the project and he would like to do a crop-count of produce being grown in the garden. He plans to do the crop count today, during the workday hours after this meeting.

Phil Silva has been involved in this project as well as Mara. It is associated with Design Trust for Public Space and is said to be helpful to community gardens. They gave us a binder in the past, explaining the project. It creates a way to work with gardeners to track metrics and build data. They have a website that gardeners can check out if interested in being a part of it.

If someone is interested in independently tracking their own produce, please talk to Jeff so that when he does the produce count, that person's produce will not be counted twice (as he plans to do a full count of what is being grown in the garden). Jeff suggests making a billboard for the project. Also tracked to create data would be rainwater, mapping of visitors, projects going on, etc. A before mentioned project is the Yum/Yuk project where children vote of garden produce that they like or dislike.

## General Gardening Matters

Kayla - Something to think about - she does not like plastic pots around the garden.

Eva - Has burlap that can be used to cover plastic pots if needed- she put a large burlap bag around the large plastic pot in the front of the garden.

Neil - Fire hose

There is a plan to cut down a few branched from the pine tree in the front to clear area for the fire hose. Katherine approved it as being safe for the tree.

Will asked if we want to put it in a path that is not used much. Should it be diverted?

Brief discussion about creating a new path for the garden hose.

Acousa voiced that the current hose is not working well.

Francis - The barrels are empty - we should not use the rain water in case we need it during the dry summer months.

Joey- He filled the barrels a few weeks ago - taught people how to use the hose. He also noticed a big hole in the hose.

Jeff- there are many links in the hose, perhaps we only need to replace a few links, not the entire hose.

Will- before we invest in a new hose, we may want to think about investing in a way to protect it while it is in the street when being used.

Mia - offered to help with this. She looked into a ramp to cover the hose while in the street.

Virginia - Last time we got a hose, it was a Navel Hose.

**Neil - Can we vote of approving a new hose?**

**Vote- Unanimous - All is favor of purchasing a new hose (including protective equipment such as a ramp)**

Traci - What is the weight of the protective equipment? There was a concern in the past that the equipment may be too heavy for one person to carry as they set up the hose to be used. Mia responded that it comes in many sections and this would help with carrying it. There are many different kinds and weight would be taken into consideration.

Jessica- Asks if the garden has a Tax ID. If the garden does, we do not have to pay tax on the items. Response is that the garden does have a tax ID.

Ruth suggested that we assign a rotation of a group of people together to put water in the barrels.

Joey agrees that this is a very good open hours activity. It takes about 2 hours. Also, please during open hours, make sure tanks have mosquito dunks in them. (Mosquito dunks are currently located in the shed). We may need to get more from Home Depot. Also please make sure that the barrels are covered.

Will - Directions how to fill the water barrels can also be found on our website.

### Peach Tree discussion:

Some people are suggesting to cut down the peach tree.

Virginia - Virginia and Katherine had a discussion about the fact that our current peach tree is about 16 years old, has fungus, is being attacked by bugs, and usually does not grow peaches anymore. Better to plant something else. Prevention is key. The usual life span for a peach tree is about 8 years. We should think of planting another fruit tree instead.

Ruth - There are several mummified peaches that form which drop to the ground, further infecting the tree. She did some research and read that if you spray copper in the fall/spring seasons and someone picks up all the mummified fruit from the ground, we could possibly save the tree. This is however a lot of maintenance.

Brian- The tree is not in the light that it needs anymore. There is not enough space for it to thrive.

Traci - Agrees that the tree has Peach Leaf Curl. Suggests that we practice good maintenance care on the current tree before getting a new one. We should be able to treat it organically.

Lisa - Are we proposing to cut down the tree or to keep it?

Joey- worried about removing too many trees at once. He had a discussion with Katherine about other trees having to be removed as well including the Dogwood and the Redwood.

Traci- Noted that there were some seedlings from the peach tree so it does have some strength.

Virginia - Suggests we practice learning good tree care by practicing on the plum tree which has plum tree perculio. It is a good opportunity for people to get involved. They can pick up old/rotting plums.

Traci - suggests that we can care for the peach tree without having to contract out for help.

Will - There are no organic means to care for the peach tree.

Virginia- Has Organic copper to use on the tree. She has done so in the past.

There are 3 volunteers to head the Peach Tree saving project - Joey, Traci, Kayla.

**Vote: Interested parties will organically treat the peach tree for a time period until October 2015 by which we will then decide to continue treating the tree or vote to cut it down. - Vote passed. If anyone interested in helping, please talk to Joey, Traci, Kayla.**

**11 yes, 8 no, 1 abstention**

Neil- During the workday, lets take an inventory of what is in the shed and see what we need. If someone sees that we need something, please let us know.

Joey- reminds that dogs are not allowed past the herb circle.

Traci- asks if we want to build a pumpkin smash target during the work day.

Workday Agenda-

Does the fire hose work? / Brush pile needs to be chopped / weeding, watering / target, deck / Jeff - crop count / Moving the hose stand / pruning / orientation

Kayla - next meeting should be a pot luck. All agree this is a great idea.

Ratifying May Meeting minutes: Approval of minutes posted from last meeting

11 yes

0 no

9 abstentions

Next Meeting Wednesday, July 9th 7PM at the garden - Potluck

Meeting Minutes recorded and typed by Jennifer Richman Garden Secretary