

PROSPECT HEIGHTS COMMUNITY FARM, MINUTES OF JULY 9 MEETING

Present: Louise Brooks, Canan Corus (new), Joey DeLeo, Aaron Dobish, Rachel Glicksman, Alex Hayes, Abbie Hurewitz, Ella Morgenlander, Frances Norwood, Traci Nottingham, Rosemary Palms, Debra Phillip (new), Neil Richardson, Lee Schere, Kayla Schwartz, Jennie Specter

This was a lovely potluck supper, and we ate while we met.

Neil started the meeting at 7:06 p.m. with committee reports.

- Kayla -- **news from BANG:** (1) The 6 gardens in BANG are in 3 city council districts, and our councilpersons gave us \$9000 to reimburse member garden expenditures. \$2000 of that will be used for insurance. (2) The next BANG meeting will be at 615 Green (at 6th Avenue and 15th Street) tomorrow, July 10. See <http://banglandtrust.org/the-gardens/615-green/> Everyone is welcome.
- Kayla -- plans to attend a workshop on **raising bees**, given by GreenThumb on July 30. She will post the information on the listserv. She wants PHCF to consider having a hive or 2. One motivation is to help bring the bee population back. The bees need a water source. Members asked her to find out whether our mosquito dunks are okay with bees, and to ask about costs.
- Alex-- **treasurer's report:** we cleared about \$1400 from our plant sale, and now have a total of \$3947.26.
- Joey -- no activity to report on assigning **boxes**.
- Lee and Jennie-- **compost report:** because we have a \$450 grant from the Citizens Committee to measure our compost production, the composters (6 or 7 members) have met to decide the best way to do this. They have decided to use new metal bins to drop off new materials. When a bin is full, the materials will be weighed and then transferred to the existing wood bins for the usual aging process. When the compost process is done, it will be measured again. Money has been used to buy the new bins and a scale, and to make new signs. The Park Slope Food Co-op will help pay for some of the purchases. Jennie and Lee will offer a tutorial on composting after the meeting.
- Neil -- reported for Eva that **sign-up sheets** are now available for signing up for open hours in July and August.
- Traci -- as **master gardener** showed us a **quick weed** and told us to place pulled quick weeds in the garbage, not the compost bin.
Other business and announcements:
- Traci -- invited us to attend her **presentation on street tree care**, at the Brooklyn Brainery on July 19, 9:30-11:00 a.m. It's a free workshop.
- Canan -- is a professor of marketing at Pace U. and is doing a **study of community gardens**. Thus she is joining our garden and will take the orientation tour after the meeting.
- Joey -- **fruit tree expert** Catherine Patton of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden met with several of us at the garden. (1) pear -- struggling. Keep it well watered. Take off buds next spring to encourage another year of growth before it bears fruit. (2) In general, fruit trees should be kept small. We need to remove dead parts and prune only in the fall. Take off suckers now. (3) apple -- healthy. Insects can't be prevented without using

chemicals. (4) peach -- looks bad. May have to be removed. Still some things to try to get it back to health. (5) keep area around trunks clear, even of mulch. (6) fig -- wasn't looked at, but, despite hard winter, seems to be doing fine.

- Traci -- announced that a **fruit tree pruning workshop** is being planned by GreenThumb, probably to be held in the spring. It's a city-wide workshop but will be held in our garden.
- Neil -- has been inventorying the **tools** and is 3/4 finished. We need some small tools and a long-handled pruning saw. Possible purchases suggested are trowels, wire cutters, a battery-operated drill, a hose (perhaps a coiled hose) and "hose ramps" as protectors for stretching it across the road, a lock for the shed because tools are disappearing, and maybe another table.
- Neil -- the **stewardship proposal** (designating specific persons in charge of caring for specific areas of the garden) is still being devised/refined by Johanna Bauman.
- Neil -- are we planning **events** to present on our new stage? Vanessa will be giving a talk/demo on herbs and flowers. Other ideas? Concerts?
- Rosemary --Brooklyn East Collegiate Middle school (in P.S. 9) **school visit**. Three classes of fifth-graders came on the last full day of school, June 23, and Chris Wrenn, Neil, Rosemary, and Eva Wang took turns showing them facets of the garden. Approval of the minutes of the June meeting was deferred till August.

Next meeting is August 2, 10 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

After the meeting, Neil told us some useful facts about healthy soil. He is leaving several pages of information in our "library."

Minutes submitted by Rosemary Palms, co-secretary