

PHCF August 2nd 2014 Garden Meeting Minutes
10:15am - 11:45am

Meeting Attendance: Traci Nottingham, Eva Wang, Will Law, Val Douglas, Jeff Secor, Alex Hayes, Ted De Barbieri, Jennifer Richman, Johanna Bauman, Neil Richardson, Catherine Orrok, Rosemary Palms, Redelia Nottingham, Acousa Albritton

New Members: Willa Jones, Pablo Blanco

August Meeting Minutes:

Brief Introduction to new members by Neil

Coordinator Reports:

Service Hours Coordinator Report by Eva:

The open hours and service hours completed by garden members have been updated and are now online. A tally sheet was passed around to members present at the meeting. The compost hours noted online and on the sheet passed around have yet to be updated fully. Garden members completed most of the open hours in July. Catherine noted that we are doing much better in filling open hours comparative to previous years. One member requested later weekend hours and Traci asked if a 4-6 shift was possible on Saturdays. It was agreed that we should not over commit to the public and should focus on continuing to meet the garden open hours requirements.

Compost Report by Neil:

We have a new compost system that we have been using. In mid-August we should receive more permanent printed signs giving directions and guidance to garden members and people who use our compost system. We may need more metal cans because we currently receive about 150 pounds of compost per week.

There is plenty of fresh compost in the muncher and in the compost pile that is ready to be used. Garden members should be putting cuttings and pruning into the metal bins. This is all explained on the current signs.

We continue to receive compost from the Park Slope COOP and periodically get them to pay for things related to compost - particularly that which is not covered by a grant or other means. The coop has also started weighing their compost and the weight is now in our tally. The COOP is making the effort to work with community gardens to compost their scraps because they are concerned that the New York City is now bringing their compost to other states.

Will suggests that we can track the tallied weight of compost in google - docs. We could keep a running total in our website.

Secretary Report by Jennifer:

We are almost out of informational flyers for potential new garden members. Jennifer will make more copies and place them in the box.

Treasury Report by Johanna:

As per last month we have \$3947.26 in the OSI account (Johanna and Alex will receive updated numbers from OSI in about a week). We have \$358.16 in petty cash.

Master Gardener Report by Traci and Catherine:

Traci: The fruit tree tending activities went nowhere. Insects are hatching out of their eggs now- garden members are advised to catch them mechanically on the peach tree to prevent further damage and learn how to handle similar situations in the future. The insects have no natural predators so it is up to us humans to do it. The peach tree has other issues including Peach Tree Borer and Peach Leaf Curl (Peach Leaf Curl disease vulnerability is dependent on how wet it is in Spring.) We will be using a copper mixture to help rehabilitate the tree next Spring (of 2015).

The peach tree also has Gumosis - more of a tree health issue. We need to improve the soil to manage this problem.

Joey facilitated bringing someone from BBG to the garden to evaluate the health of our fruit trees and give suggestions. The tree expert said that the peach tree has no future though out current operations to try to heal the tree are a good learning opportunity.

Catherine: The Witch Hazel plant by the water tanks is on its last legs. At some point (does not have to be now) it should be taken down. The Stewardia is dying back from the tips and not looking so well. The main leader is not in good health- possibly it was given to the garden not in good health to begin with. We should make sure it gets plenty of water. We already lifted it and should continue to not allow dirt to pile up too high. The garden is getting difficult to walk through - box holders need to be more conscious of the areas surrounding their boxes. Keeping pathways clear is the box holder's responsibility. Neil will send out an email as a reminder to garden members.

Bang Report by Ted:

Bang has a process of getting reimbursement grants and have a projected budget that they would like us to review. Ted passed out to members present at the meeting a "2014 Budget Worksheet from Bang Land Trust" and explained it. Ted said that we got a check for \$7,000 for last year from the government and we can see that the reinvestment process is now starting to work. We should be getting \$9,500 from the government this year. Garden members should keep in mind that the money spent by the PHCF will be reimbursed to BANG so we still need to be mindful of what we spend. Also of note, we need to spend the money that is allotted to us otherwise we could lose the money for next year. We strengthen BANG through our expenditure or give the city our money, Garden members voiced that Bang should be building up reserves throughout the year for garden expenses that need to be reimbursed. If an area of projected expenses does not meet its anticipated amount (such as for supplies or printing) and there is excess in the account, the excess money should go into the reserve fund. It was not clearly stated in the BANG projected revenue budget worksheet however Ted believed that the Emergency Fund Goal is synonymous to the garden reserve. Rosemary requested a name change from "Emergency Fund" to "Emergency reserve."

Redelia asked if it is written in the BANG agreement that we be reimbursed, voicing her concern. Johanna responded that for expenses related to the infrastructure such as the

fence, BANG is written to held responsible and pay the cost. It was reminded to garden members by Johanna as well that Bang currently pays for our insurance. If there is an expense that our insurance covers then it goes through BANG. Ted reminds us that this is an evolving process and that PHCF is high performing as in comparison to the other gardens which are represented by BANG. If we have an expense such as a tree being removed we would have to make a request for reimbursement if we want BANG to pay for it. Catherine voiced that if we have to run things by BANG before they get done, perhaps they should have to pay for it.

The current estimated total projected revenue is \$14,300. An amount of \$9,500 has already been secured - paid to us by the government. The projected expenses calculated by BANG is shared between all the gardens which are represented by BANG. Neil and other garden members requested more specifics such as what does BANG mean when they say "supplies"? (Johanna voiced that she thinks it is related to expenses for a tent and signs needed for promotional purposes during community events.) Ted will follow up on these. Acousa also wanted to know the difference between "community spaces" and "community gardens".

BANG is following up on the Wildlife Certification. There were no accountant fees noted because anything under \$25,000 we can use an e-postcard. Bookkeeping time is being donated. They are also increasing fundraising efforts.

Neil asks if the community spaces expenses are reimbursable by city grant?

Will reminded garden members that anyone can go to the BANG meetings, going to a meeting may help ease people's doubts. It helped to ease his doubts after going. Ted said The BANG annual meeting is at BBG and they alternate between gardens for other meetings. Ted said he would let us know next time there is a meeting. We can also sign the BANG list serve and they will directly let us know the meeting dates.

Ted said that we can review expenses at the end of the year.

There was a vote to pass the BANG projected budget

11 yes

0 no

3 abstention

Condition is we need need an annual expense report.

General Garden Matters

June and July meeting minutes were both ratified and passed.

June:

11 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions

July:

9 yes, 0 no, 4 abstentions

Dig Box:

Traci asks that we keep items in the dig box, people need to supervise the children playing in it and make sure that the dig box items are returned to the box. It is unsafe to keep them in the path and open areas.

Akousa reminds us that there is an herb walk in prospect park on Sept. 6th. She had prepared to give a demonstration after the meeting.

Jennifer reminds that nursery school students with special needs will be making another class trip to the garden on Aug. 7th at 11AM.

Next meeting is Sept. 13th at 11AM.

Minutes recorded and typed by Jennifer Richman garden secretary