

PHCF General Meeting Minutes

September 13th, 2014 11:11AM - 12:10PM

Attendance: Eva Wang, William Law, Neil Richardson, Lee Schere, Joey DeLeo, Alexis Casano-Antonellis, Saquib R, Traci Nottingham, Val Douglas, Jessica Stein, Kira Corbin, Kayla Schwartz, Brian L. Thompson, Jen Richman, Ana Rose Hart, Irka Brown, Hands Steiner, Lisa Watkins, Rosemarie Maurer, Louise Brooks, Christine Wrenn

New Members:

Emily Msall, Philip Antoniades

Visiting:

Tanya Keilani

Meeting Minutes:

Introduction to new members by Neil

Coordinator Reports:

Treasury Report by Alex: There is \$3,7061.91 in the OSI account and \$306.86 in petty cash

BANG Report by Kayla: There is nothing new to report. Requests that people get involved in fundraising. There was an explanation about BANG for new members. We got the council grants. In terms of questions about BANG asked in previous meeting, Ted did answer them via email.

Coordinator Report by Eva: 60% of service hours must come from open hours - please sign up for open hours. During the month of August there were not many hours completed however in comparison to last year, we completed 30% more open hours. Yeah!! All service hours completed can be open hours. Opportunity to do open hours ends on October 31st. Neil reminds that if a garden member does not fulfill open hours and is not in good standing, they can lose their box or spot on the waiting list. Eva reminds that we can check our status online. The list is also posted in the front of the garden.

Compost Report by Lee: We got the compost project grant. Official metal signs were posted today. The team needs people to sign up for compost hours. It goes year-round. Compost hours are good for new members- it gives them something to do in the garden throughout the year. In terms of the current compost bins set up, it has been working out well. We may need to get another metal bin, as today it was found to be topped out. Also, Lee reminds people that compost is available for the taking. Brian suggests that if the compost bins are filled, people can use the barrels. Lee reminds that the COOP is already measuring their compost. Brian announces that we are taking in over 1,000

pounds of compost per month. Yeah!!! Lee asks that if anyone is refilling the bins, please make sure to use sawdust as well as leaves.

Box Coordinator Report by Joey: There are 18-20 people on the list. One person dropped off the list this month.

Master Gardener Report by Traci: Nothing new to report

Secretary Report by Jennifer: More copies of the PHCF informational flyers were made, as we had recently run out. They are located in a yellow box in the front of the garden close to the open hours sign up sheet.

General Announcements:

Workshops:

There are 3 upcoming workshops:

Crochet Workshop - September 27th 11:30AM

Traci will teach people how to crochet, attendees are suggested to bring yarn and a crochet needle. She has some thread and hooks that people can borrow if needed. It is open to people ages 4 and up. No prior experience required.

Wode Workshop - October 11th 11AM

Hosted by Eva - \$85 fee for materials. Children are welcome. It is on the calendar.

Herb Workshop - Date not set - possibly the end of October

* (Note: There was also a medicinal herb workshop after this meeting compliments of Akousa.)

Members announce that they would like to have a "How to build a cold frame with scrap materials workshop" sometime in October as well.

Neil - Announces Compost Tea workshop at BBG - they would be willing to come to the garden. They could help us to create compost liquid to spray on plants, good for seedlings and starts. If anyone is interested, please let Neil know. (Joey announces that he has already been doing it, he uses a 1:10 ratio)

BBG - Brooklyn Urban Gardens is hosting a class this Thursday. PHCF is going to host it and volunteers are needed to keep the garden open at the designated times. Ruth will be here for Plan A, Traci for Plan B, Brian for Plan C.

Kalya recently attended an introductory Bee Workshop by Greenthumb

This workshop covered the lifecycle of bees and the requirements/ set up needed to keep a Beehive in the garden. She noted that in our garden we do not have water - bees like water (however a nearby neighbor to the garden has water). Where would we put it? The project would require a committee to put it together. Additional education in the area of bee-keeping would be needed should we want to pursue this in the future. Also, for anyone who is afraid of bees, honeybees do not sting, they die if they sting you.

Neil asks what is the cost? To purchase a queen bee is \$80. It is not too expensive. If anyone is interested, please see Kalya. Neil proposes that Kayla submit a project proposal.

Climate March - September 21st. Kayla asks that people get involved. It starts at 11:30 location Columbus Circle. There are already 1,000 groups signed up, there should be hundreds of thousands of people. Lee announces the NYC Garden Coalition is hosting on Saturday - Fireman's garden will host a puppet show by Bread and Puppets - location 9th St. and Ave. C NYC. If people want to go to the march events, we can go together as a group. Akousa announces another organization involved - Committee of NYC also listed as hosting a schedule of activities.

Other announcements: Neil reminds that a while back we proposed stewards for the garden public areas. A few members drafted a proposal.

Steward Proposal

Eva - The Steward proposal encourages participation and organizes the public areas better. There would be more emphasis on the front of the garden. Eva emailed the proposal to the list-serve. She proposes that the stewards be under the guidance of the Master Gardeners. General description of the Steward responsibilities reviewed by Eva. Questions were answered as well. Steward makes self available for people to contact him/her to ask questions, etc. Lee asks, "What if stewards are not available?" Proposes that things be in writing. It was proposed that we add plants to the plant directory. Joey proposes that for bigger projects, it would need to be brought up at a general meeting for improved communication and transparency between garden members and the board. Proposes that if someone cannot reach a steward, members on that particular team could serve as back-up. A map of the public garden areas is currently being drafted. Some areas already have "unofficial" stewards. Joey reminds that we have some people that are steward of an area but do not want to continue the responsibility. They may be looking for new people to take over. Will recommends that we vote on the stewards annually. Garden members need to decide when to vote on this. We may not want to save it for the winter meeting. Brian asks if there will be apprenticeship - answer is yes. Neil asks how should we divest current stewards? Who wants to continue and

who not? Joey proposes that we don't have to set up stewards now. Lee proposes to set up a day for stewards to receive training from Master Gardeners. Traci reminds that all communal areas are our responsibility. She reminds garden members to please water and de-weed.

Tools/Supplies:

Neil requests that we list items that need to be purchased for toolshed.

Needed are: watering cans, trowels, pruners, rubbing alcohol (to clean off rust and disease from tools), battery operated drill. The hose was brought up as well however that is a separate issue. In Spring, Greenthumb often gives out some of these items for free, we would need a car. They also distribute wood. Neil recommends putting the drill on a chain and giving coordinators a key/padlock. We would have to charge it from time to time, Neil is willing to take it home to do that. Brian recommends we consult with John Pope - he's a construction worker and could recommend a good brand.

Events:

Next Saturday morning from 10AM-12PM garden member Lexi will be hosting her son's 4th birthday party at the garden.

Next meeting Sunday October 12th 1PM at the garden.

Meeting minutes recorded and typed by Jennifer Richman Garden Secretary