

Prospect Heights Community Farm: Board Meeting, January 24, 2015

Present: Eva Wang, chair of meeting; Kayla Schwartz, Traci Nottingham, Alex Hayes, Johanna Bauman, Catherine Orrok, Ted de Barbieri, Joey De Leo, Will Law, Rosemary Palms.

We met 4-6 p.m. at Rosemary's house.

Eva announced the date, time, and place of the **annual membership meeting: Saturday, February 21, 2015, 2 p.m., at Duryea Presbyterian Church** on the corner of Sterling Place and Underhill Avenue. Thanks to Brian Thompson for making the arrangements.

Eva has done a study of our **open hours time slots** that are least popular for members (Thursday, 4-6 p.m.) and most popular (Sunday, 2-4 p.m.). After discussion, we decided for 2015 to drop the Thursday time slot and add Sunday, 4-6 p.m. The vote was 6 in favor, 2 against, and 1 abstention.

Kayla, our representative at the Brooklyn Alliance of Neighborhood Gardens (BANG), gave us a **BANG update**.

- PHCF is now officially a wildlife habitat.
- Finances are in fairly good shape; the City Council has awarded a grant through the Department of Parks (changed from the Department of Youth). We are invited to submit requests for reimbursement for garden expenses. BANG asks member gardens to consider donations, perhaps \$500 or more. (BANG covers our garden insurance, among other benefits.)
- We discussed whether we should give a donation, and that discussion led to whether we should consider switching our fiscal sponsor from Open Space Institute to BANG. Johanna will investigate possibilities.
- BANG has bought a tent for use at street fairs and other events; and this tent is available for use by member gardens.
- Arborpolitan won the bid to do tree work and chipping for BANG, although we are not bound to follow suit for our garden's smaller needs.
- BANG's annual meeting, to which all interested persons are welcome, will be March 8, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Fostering **wildlife**: Catherine suggested that we consider plantings that would attract birds. Our bat-house is still awaiting inhabitants, but sometimes it takes a few years.

We settled on a few **work days**:

- Sunday, Feb. 15, 1-3 p.m., to do winter pruning;
- Saturday, Feb. 28, 1-4 p.m., general clean-up;
- Saturday, March 21, 1-4 p.m., general clean-up.

We discussed **ways to encourage members to be more active**. One way may be through the new area stewardship plan (see below); another might entail a by-law change in requirements for new membership (see below).

Area stewardship proposals are due no later than January 31. Send to Eva. The master gardeners (Traci, Catherine, Virginia) and the coordinator of the garden (Eva) will consider them before the general meeting of Feb. 21. The idea is to put one gardener in charge of a specific area of the garden with a specific plan for that area; then that person will invite other garden members to join a team to work on that area.

Proposed by-law amendment: Currently one becomes a member by completion and receipt of a membership application, payment of annual dues, attendance at a New Member Orientation, and attendance at a meeting." The proposed amendment would in addition require participation in a later work day before the key is distributed.

We decided not to change the gate lock and keys this year. Rather, we will remind members not to share their keys.

Membership **monthly meeting dates** were set, as follows, without determining specific times and configuration of meetings and attendant work days: Saturday, April 11; Saturday, May 2; Saturday, June 13; Wednesday, July 8; Saturday, August 1; Saturday, September 12 (originally Sept 5, updated post-meeting by Eva due to Labor Day); Sunday, October 4; Saturday, November 7 (also the pumpkin smash event).

Election of coordinators and other positions will take place at the February 21 meeting. Any member who would like to volunteer for a position is invited to speak up by contacting Eva or by volunteering at the general meeting on February 21. We are especially in need of two new overall coordinators and someone to keep track of service hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Palms, co-secretary