

Prospect Heights Community Farm: Board Meeting, March 28, 2015

Present: Brian Thompson, chair of meeting; Eva Wang, Traci Nottingham, Johanna Bauman, Ted de Barbieri, Lee Schere, Jennie Spector, Aaron Dobish, Will Law, Rosemary Palms.

We met 1-2 p.m. at Rosemary's house.

Brian welcomed all. He informed us that **the 3 coordinators have worked out a schedule for the season so that one person would always be available** as point person for the garden.

Membership reconciliation: In 2014 we changed two requirements of members: that non-box members must donate 10 hours of service in the garden through the season (up from 9), and box members must serve 20 hours (up from 18); and at least 3/5 of the hours (the 60/40 rule) must be open hours duty. We agreed to forgive the 60/40 rule for 2014; and letters will go out to members just 1 or 2 hours short of their quota, saying that they will be expected to make up those hours in 2015.

Fiscal coordination: We have been using OSI to keep our books. That gives us income tax exemption, but we must pay 8% of our income to OSI. Treasurer Johanna and BANG rep Ted are looking into other options. One would be to work through BANG for their tax-exempt status, but then checks would have to be signed by BANG designees. Another possibility would be to become incorporated (at a cost of about \$110) and apply for tax-exempt status ourselves (cost: about \$400). Ted is willing to shepherd us through that process. Ted and Johanna will continue to consider options, and our goal is to present our recommendations at the May garden meeting.

Robert's Rules of Order: Brian would like to adhere more closely to Robert's Rules during garden meetings in order to be as fair and democratic as possible, and to give everyone an equal chance to be heard. Ted is emailing all the board members a two-page summary of the rules.

Brian has had an inquiry from a new daycare center across the street from the garden about whether the daycare children can use the garden for open space activities. Past requirements included membership in the garden, and we want to include the practice of maintaining what we plant. One suggestion was to offer to help the center set up an interior garden of its own. The conversation will continue as we sort out possibilities and policies suitable for both the children and the garden.

Brian would like to continue the practice started last year of offering a garden-related presentation by a member before or after each monthly garden meeting. Akosua will be our first presenter, on soil.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Palms, co-secretary