

Prospect Heights Community Farm, General Membership Meeting

May 16, 2015, 1 p.m. DRAFT OF MINUTES

Present (*new members with asterisk): Johanna Bauman, Erica Blitz*, Louise Brooks, Alexis Casano-Antonellis, Janay Daniel, Ted De Barbieri, Aaron Dobish, Valentine Douglas, Daniel Fried*, Michelle Fried, Abbie Hurewitz, Jean Kahler, Anne Lai, Will Law, Ruth Manning, Rosemarie Maurer, Bill Mohley, Ella Morgenlander, Karlyn Murphy, Frances Norwood, Redelia Nottingham, Traci Nottingham, Rosemary Palms, Deborah Phillip, Anna Rosehart, Jennie Spector, Jessica Stein, Mia Torres, Sofia van Leeuwen*, Lisa Watkins, Virginia Webster.

Johanna and Traci chaired the meeting, which started at 1:08 p.m. and ended at 2:15.

Announcements: Thank-yous to all who helped pick up plants for the plant sale and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden giveaways, and to Akosua Albritton for arranging for our water hydrant permit. Ted requested help with the BANG tent and plant sale during the Fifth Avenue Fair on May 17.

Minutes for April meeting approved: 10 yes, 0 no, 9 abstentions.

Plant sale wrap-up: We netted about \$552, and agreed to donate our leftovers to BANG to sell during the Fifth Avenue Fair.

Treasurer's report (report by Johanna): We bought soil (\$503) and have about \$1760 in cash on hand. That cash plus our bank balance totals \$4498.47. We have a couple of outstanding bills and will donate \$650 to BANG (previously authorized).

Service hours update(report by Aaron): last month, April, we fulfilled 75% of our commitment for 20 open hours a week. (There was a discussion about people crossing off other people's names on the sign-up sheet. It was recommended that if you cross off a name, even if it is your own, initial the cross-out.)

Box coordinator update (Joey DeLeo was not present, but the new list of box-holders is posted on the website.)

Compost update (report by Jennie): after a slow and frozen winter, the compost is cooking again, but it isn't plentiful yet, so share equitably. We need volunteers. Immediately after the June member meeting there will be a compost orientation.

Master gardeners update (report by Traci): again, thanks for the plant sale help and to those who donated plants as well. In addition, help ourselves to new seedlings that have been started in our nursery (under the plum tree).

Stewards of areas: a map of the various areas of the garden was passed around; we were urged to sign up to work on an area.

Brooklyn Alliance of Neighborhood Gardens (BANG), our umbrella land trust (report by Ted): This is our umbrella land trust. BANG meets monthly. The next meeting is June 11, 7 p.m., at our garden. Open to all. BANG has about \$10,500 on hand, most of which was granted through City Council members.

Should we move our PHCF money to BANG? A lengthy discussion followed. Right now our money is with the Open Space Institute (OSI), our fiscal sponsor, to benefit from its 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit status. It charges us 8% and does our accounting for us.

**An option to consider: stay with OSI .

**An option to consider: have BANG hold our funds, which would be co-mingled with their main account but earmarked as our funds. Possible downside: They have a volunteer accountant.

**An option to consider: BANG may set up a separate PHCF checking account under BANG's name (to be negotiated).

**An option to consider: PHCF could open a community organization bank account without non-profit status. At Chase Bank there would be no monthly fee if we maintain a \$1,500 minimum balance.

**An option to consider: PHCF would incorporate and apply for sales tax exemption and non-profit 501(c)(3) status (\$560 fee).

Motion made and seconded, with an amendment accepted: **For now, donate \$650 to BANG (already authorized) out of our cash on hand, and have treasurers hold the rest of the cash on hand.** Motion passed: 23 yes, 0 no, 3 abstentions.

The intention now is to continue studying the options above.

Garden hose (report by Aaron): we have a new hose! Lowe's did not have protective ramps. They must be ordered. Cost may be as much as \$350 shipped. Mia will follow up.

Planters for entrance: Frances requested, and they will be bought and picked up for her.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, June 14, 11 a.m.

Rosemary Grebin Palms, co-secretary