

Prospect Heights Community Farm, General Membership Meeting

June 14th, 2015

Attendance

Johanna Bauman, Kayla Swartz, Brian Thompson, Lee Schere, Traci Nottingham, Ruth Manning, Erica Blitz, Rosemary Palms, Rachael Glicksman, Dan Fried, Michelle Fried, Karlyn Murphy, Alex Hayes, Virginia Webster, Marva W. Sealy, Valentine Douglas, Lynn Armentrout, Jean Kahler, Philip Antoniadis, Aaron Dobish, Anna Rose Hart, Joey DeLeo, Mia Torres, Stav Birnbaum, Rosemarie Maurer, Jennifer Richman, Jeff Secor, Martha Elliot, Bree Mobley, Jennie Spector

Non Members/New Members

Prita Lal

Brian and Johanna chaired the meeting which started at 11:05 AM and ended at 12:06PM.

Introductions - garden members announced their names, positions on the board, and how long they have been at the garden

Coordinator Announcements by Johanna

There will be an expansion of How To's section on the website to address recent questions regarding Boxes, Reimbursements, Service Hours Calendar, Procedures, etc.

The Bat Box was removed by Brian, Ted, and Aaron. We are currently looking to relocate the box - to be discussed during meeting.

The profit from nursery plant sale was at least \$255

There will be a General Meeting date change from Sat. August 1st at 10AM to Sat. August 8th at 11AM. The PHCF website has already been updated to reflect these changes.

Approval of minutes from last meeting - There was a unanimous vote to approve the May 2015 meeting minutes. Minutes draft for May 2015 are ratified.

Requests for additional agenda items (to be discussed at a later date) - Kayla proposes an arbor (arch) be built in the garden at some point next season. Lee announces that there will be a compost orientation after the meeting. Ruth proposes that a greenhouse built in light of the successes of seedlings cultivated from the nursery for this year's plant sale. Kayla and Ruth were asked to research and prepare a detailed proposal for discussion at the next meeting. Lee announces that there will be a compost orientation after the meeting.

Treasury Update by Alex

We currently have a total of \$4,008.92 in our OSI account, \$704.00 of which is in petty cash. This also includes a donation of \$650.00 to BANG.

The treasury team is currently in the process of putting together a list of How To's to be posted on website which would help explain how the garden can be reimbursed for expenses.

Service Hours Update by Aaron

Garden members completed 80% of open hours in May - an improvement from April.

Reiteration of process for the open hours calendar - including the protocol for open hours sign up - if a member does not show up for their scheduled hours, another member is present in the garden at that time may cross off their name on the calendar. If the serving member shows up late and find that their name has been crossed off the calendar, the garden member serving open hours should re-write their name with the time that they arrived. These clarifications will be posted on the Website How To's page. The topic of raining during Open Hours will be clarified as well.

Garden member Michelle asks if we can include extra time that we keep the gate open for the community as open hours. Brian reminds that according to our agreement with Greenthumb, we can only count posted open hours in our calculations of fulfillment of open hours.

Aaron reminds that there needs to be a 60/40 ratio of open hours to service hours. Please sign up to complete open hours. Members can review their status online.

Box Coordinator Update by Joey

The box list has been updated and will be posted in the garden. The map of who has a box, who is sharing, etc. was also updated and will be posted in the garden.

An FAQs page was drafted and will be posted on the How To's page of our website pending board approval. It has not been finalized and subject to change.

Brian announces that he will be away for 7 weeks and offers that members feel free to harvest from his bed (#24). He has already requested some members to help with watering.

Compost Update by Lee

There will be a compost team orientation after the meeting and members are invited to attend. Members are welcomed to join the compost team.

As per calculations from the compost grant project, a total of 11,008 pounds was diverted from waste and converted into 2,500 pounds of compost since the project began July 2014 and measurements started.

Kayla motions that the compost team rocks! All agreed.

Lee reminds that garden members may sign up for being a part of the compost team via email.

It is requested by garden members to make the compost hours calendar public online so that members may more easily sign up for hours. Lee agrees to talk to Will about making it public. Val reminds that members who show up for compost hours must be trained so that it is done correctly.

Master Gardener Updates by Traci

Soil purchases for next year will be evaluated and monitored by the Master Gardeners. It is requested that this be brought up again during the September or October meeting. Virginia requests that members initiate communication about their need for soil with Master Gardeners so there is a better understanding of the need for purchases.

Traci reminds that we have a Steward Map. If someone wants to take part, please contact the steward for that area. The map will be posted in the shed.

BANG Land Trust Update by Kayla

There is a proposed switch from OSI as our fiscal sponsor to BANG. BANG has become an official not-for-profit and we can avoid the 8% fee that we currently have with OSI. BANG has also approved that we can have a separate checking account through them. (This will be voted on later in the meeting)

Kayla reminds that all are welcome to attend the BANG meetings. PHCF hosted a BANG meeting last week. There is a BANG list serve, anyone can join. Please refer to their website.

Garden Finances and Bank Account Update by Johanna

If we do decide to go with BANG as our fiscal sponsor, checks would be made out to BANG. We were affirmed that it would be a separate account. It would require that there be two signers for each check (treasurer/coordinator and the BANG representative). The logistics would need to be worked out. Reimbursements are always available

for \$50 or less via petty cash. The How To's will be updated in our website for clarification.

Ruth reminds that there are other options such as becoming our own 501C3 instead of going through BANG.

Johanna reminds that this would involve hiring a lawyer and increasing the work load of garden members.

It is suggested by Brian and other members that we go through BANG now and members who are interested can put together a plan for becoming a 501C3 and present it during a general meeting.

Should the garden choose to have BANG as our current fiscal sponsor, it does not preclude us for becoming an independent entity in the future.

Kayla adds that BANG supports our securing 501C3 status - 615, another BANG garden already is.

Motion to make BANG our fiscal sponsor

26 yes, 0 no, 5 abstain - motion passes.

Dogwood trimming - Master Gardeners discussion led by Virginia and Traci

Catherine suggests we professionally cut down one of two trunks of the Dogwood in the back of the garden. The time of season does not make much of a difference. It is weakening the tree, currently the trunk is not solid. There is a seam running off the trunk and it will eventually split. By taking away this trunk, there will also be more sun available to the nearby beds. The digging bed will stay shaded because it is under the trunk that will not be removed. The canopy will continue to grow and it eventually will be evened out.

Val suggests we trim the juniper tree in the main walkway of the garden. There was reportedly a birds nest in the tree and the master gardeners will take this into consideration. It is agreed to trim the tree at the discretion of the master gardeners.

Rehanging the bat box

The bat box must be at least 15 feet high and should be on a post or in a tree.

Mia recommends that we use a post such as a 20 foot pipe (5 additional feet needed so that it can be buried deep enough underground to keep it stable.)

Ruth motions to purchase a 20 foot pipe. Garden members are not yet sure where it would go. Bat Box team will draft a proposal and present it to the garden during a general meeting.

Garden Mic proposals at the end of meeting announced by Brian

It is reminded that members are welcome to put together a presentation for fellow garden members after general meetings. Please contact coordinators if interested.

There will be a work day after the meeting.

Compost Tea party this Thursday, June 18th 7PM

Next General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 8th 7PM.

Minutes recorded and typed by Jennifer Richman, garden secretary