

Prospect Heights Community Farm, General Membership Meeting

July 8th, 2015 DRAFT OF MINUTES

Attendance

William Law, Eva Wang, Kayla Swartz, Traci Nottingham, Dan Fried, Virginia Webster, Jean Kahler, Aaron Dobish, Joey DeLeo, Mia Torres, Jennifer Richman, Bree Mobley, Jennie Spector, Jessica Stein, Redelia Nottingham, Abbie Hurewitz, Joanne Dittersdorf, Martha Elliot, Akousa Albriton, Ted De Barbieri

Non Members/New Members

Dan MacCombie, Colin Kirk, Kelsea Norris, Meret Stocker

Traci chaired the meeting which started at 7:06PM and ended at 7:36PM

Introductions - garden members announced their names and positions on the board

Coordinator Announcements by Traci

We have had multiple international visitors to our garden recently with the intent of doing research about community gardens and learning about what we do here at PHCF. International visitors include someone from Goa, India and someone who is here with us today, Meret Stocker from Switzerland. Ms. Stocker will be with us till November.

Treasury Update by Will (Standing in for Alex and Johanna)

We have withdrawn our funds from OSI and are waiting to transfer them to the BANG account. Shelia McDevitt of BANG is currently on vacation and she needs to sign off on the paperwork. She should be returning by the end of the month.

Funds withdrawn from OSI total \$3342.00, \$400.00 in cash, and \$324.50 in petty cash - Totaling \$4066.50.

Service Hours Update by Aaron and Eva

The open hours calendar was circulated among attendees and they were encouraged to sign up. Aaron reminds that there needs to be a 60/40 ratio of open hours to service hours. 20 hours of open hours are required for box holders and 10 hours are required for non-box holders. Members can review their status online. This ratio is pro-rated for new members. Each open hours shift can be completed by up to 2 people per shift. If two people have already signed up for a particular slot, please choose a different shift. It is reminded that members may only sign up for open hours slots that are on the calendar. A listing of completed hours is visible online at PHCFarm.com and this may be helpful for member to track their fulfilled requirements. If it rains heavily and/or there is a thunderstorm, creating unsafe environment for completion of open hours on that day, the member who has signed up for that slot is requested to cross their name off of the calendar for that day.

Box Coordinator Update by Joey

The box list which was updated last month is still valid, as there have been no changes this month. Will posted Box list FAQ's on the website under the "How To" guide. The rank of placement is a public list and is currently posted in the bulletin board.

Compost Update by Jessica

There have been many visitors to the garden, dropping off their compost. It is helpful to have 2 or more members during each compost shift. Heavy lifting is often involved and it is difficult for just one person to do it. It is reminded that being an active part of the Compost team is a great way to fulfill your service hours requirements and get involved. It is great for open hours shift as well for Sundays. It is reminded that garden members may sign up for being a part of the compost team via email.

BANG Land Trust Update by Kayla

BANG (Brooklyn Association of Neighborhood Gardens) is having a pot luck tomorrow at 7PM and all are welcome. It will be held at the 615 Garden on 6th Ave and 15th Street in Park Slope. BANG business will be discussed and there will be sharing of food/drink, which attendees are requested to bring. No further report at this time.

Master Gardener Updates by Traci and Virginia

The fig tree is still alive. We will hopefully get figs. The tree will be pruned to cut off the dead parts. The nursery has been doing well and we recently got paid \$40 for purchases from the nursery.

Secretary Report by Jennifer and Traci

Ratification of June minutes - 9 yes, 0 no, 5 abstentions. June general meeting minutes are ratified.

Member Announcements

Brush Pile

Joanne requests that the brush pile be addressed in order to increase access to communal areas in the back of the garden. The size of the brush pile is getting out of control. One of her tomato plants was knocked over due to lack of space on the side of the communal bed. She asks that people be mindful and how we can address the issue.

Virginia motions that next work day we cut up the brush pile. It is always on the agenda but is often not a priority and does not get done.

The next group gardening day is Saturday July 11th at 10AM. It is suggested that we start bundling up the large brush and corral them. Jessica does not like the idea. Joanna suggests we make a plan, not just hope it gets better. Joey suggests we talk to other BANG gardens to see how they manage it. Eva is willing to research options and alternatives. It is recommended that we educate garden members about what does/

does not go into the brush pile. Our current system is to just clip them down. Dan M. presents another option. He suggests that local venues may want to use the brush for fire places (ex. Union Hall may be willing to take it).

Will asks how we can contain it? Agrees that we should educate members - often the wrong things go into the brush pile.

Aaron suggests that we rent out a dumpster and do an overall clean-out. We currently have cement, wire, sticks, garbage in the back of the shed. Some things have been there for years.

Greenthumb does not take up collection anymore so they are not an option.

Dan M. has friends that run furniture companies and they may want the wood. Traci suggests that they come to the work day to take a look at what we have.

Joanne offers to put together a proposal to make a sign about the brush pile, educating gardeners about what goes into the brush pile and what does not. Will will post onto the website as well - how we deal with waste in the garden.

Events and International Guests:

Robert White is coming to the garden on July 18th to talk to members about community gardens. He is currently doing a thesis about urban gardening.

Meret Stocker from Switzerland will be with us at the garden until mid September doing research. She is currently gathering information about social anthropology and urban agriculture. Switzerland is currently taking steps toward urban agriculture (baby steps right now) and would like to see how we do things so that they can use it as a model.

Officially a Wildlife area

We are now considered a Wildlife area (as a group with other gardens) thanks to Jean submitting materials on our behalf.

There will be a work day on July 11th 10AM. Please join in..

Next General Meeting will be held on Saturday, August 8th 11AM.

Minutes recorded and typed by Jennifer Richman, garden secretary