

Prospect Heights Community Farm, General Membership Meeting

September 12th, 2015 DRAFT OF MINUTES

Attendance

Catherine Orrock, Joseph DeLeo, Brian L. Thompson, Erica Blitz, Traci Nottingham, Anne Lai, Frances Norwood, Jennie Spector, Johanna Bauman, Jennifer Richman, Bree Mobley, Philip Antoniadis, Stav Birnbaum, Aaron Dobish, Sheila Bowles, Lee Schere, Akousa Albritton, Ruth Manning

Non Members/New Members

Meret Stocker, Melissa Bowen Rubin, Josh Rubin, Antonia Blatchford

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

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

Ratification of August Meeting minutes - 11 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention. Minutes are ratified.

Treasury Update by Johanna

We currently have \$3742,99 in our BANG account. We are working on getting checks for the account. Electronic receipts no longer are acceptable (including photos of receipts). The BANG account requires that original receipts be submitted for reinvestment (a hard copy is needed). If a purchase is under \$50.00 a receipt is not required - can get verbal approval from the Board/Treasurers. In general, for all purchases it is reminded that clearance is needed from the Board. We still need to get a tax-free letter from BANG so that we do not get taxed for purchases. Petty Cash is about \$261.00.

Service Hours Update by Aaron

Aaron reminds that Open Hours need to be completed by the end of October. 20 hours required for box holders, 10 hours for non-box holders. Service hours can be completed through the winter (i.e. compost, shoveling snow, etc). Service hours are pro-rated for new members. A sign up sheet for open hours was passed around. Lee asks if open hours set in stone, he has a hard time completing them during weekday evenings after work. In response to Lee's question - the garden votes and determines open hours, most are scheduled over the weekend. If completing the full shift is not possible, garden members can complete a portion of the scheduled open hours (i.e. 6-7PM on weekdays). Open hours shift times are posted on our website.

Maternity/paternity leave - For a year after child is born, as it currently stands, as per request, garden members can be exempt from service and open hours. This was voted on in 2009. Meetings are not included. New moms are required to come to meetings. There was a vote on this issue at current meeting which was unanimous. Maternity/paternity

leave must be requested by a member, includes exemption from service hours up to one year after child's birth and does not include exemption from meeting attendance.

It was also a unanimous vote that Garden members over 65 can request exemption from service hours because of hardship but this exemption does not include meeting attendance. It is reminded that this exemption is not automatic - must be requested. Open hours can continue to be performed and it is reminded that all service hours may be completed as open hours.

It is reminded that there is a medical leave request as well. It must be communicated with the Board as soon as possible so that there is full understanding. In the past, members have lost box privileges because of lack of communication of medical leave needs.

Communications Report - Nothing new to report at the moment - officer absent

Master Gardener Updates by Catherine and Traci

As discussed in last meeting, there are issues with the Japanese Maple tree and the Dogwood in the back of the garden. Cutting back the Dogwood is a big project and it is requested that strong people volunteer. It can be done in house but a lot of hands are needed, Catherine cannot do it alone. It is better to cut it back in the Winter, when the tree is dormant. Was scheduled for Saturday February 13th. There was a concern by garden member about shade in the back of the garden. Catherine reminds that the canopy will fill out and shade should not be an issue.

Stav asks about the Lead situation. Catherine and Traci reply that communal spaces have some lead elevation. The boxes were found to be within normal limits. In general, lead is more easily absorbed into leafy greens, usually not as much of an issue in fruits. Sunflowers may help to absorb and remove Lead from soil.

Box Coordinator Update by Joey

There are 25 people on the waiting list, it has not changed and a current list will be posted in the box in front of the garden. This list does not include Aug service hours updates. Brian reminds that there are about 30 boxes that are sought after. To obtain a box, members must be in good standing with meetings, service hours, and membership dues. It is reiterated for new members that there are 2 ways garden members can bring service hours to the garden - open hours and service (work) hours. More info given during orientation after meeting. Dues can be \$5-\$25 annual donation.

Future topic for discussion is family membership/box protocol. It is suggested that the Board discuss this at the next Board meeting. Reminder by Traci that there is a box map in the shed on the left hand side.

Compost Update by Lee and Jennie

There is a large supply of compost that has been already weighed and is ready to be used. Compost team continues to seek new members - there are some open shifts which members can sign up for. Repairs to the compost bins will be performed today during the workday.

Reminder (an email will also be sent to the list-serve) PLEASE PUT TOMATOES INTO THE GARBAGE, NOT THE COMPOST. Tomato blight has been an issue this year, as it was last year. By doing so will help to stop the spread of blight. Also please put Morning Glory flowers and seeds as well as other weed seeds into the garbage. We have a weed ID chart in the box in front of the garden. A workshop was requested to help members ID weeds. Will be conducted as a Garden Mic after the next meeting. Also a reminder to please cut up scraps into 2-3 inch pieces (including if frozen) to help the compost break down.

BANG Update by Johanna -

BANG has initiated a seed collection and swap between the 5 BANG gardens. If interested in participating, please collect your seeds and save them in a labeled envelope. A collection tin has been created and is located in our shed labeled "Seed Collection 2015."

Member Announcements

On Sunday, October 4th at noon, there will be a meeting focused on the brush pile and finding strategies to manage/contain it better on an ongoing basis. All are welcome to attend.

There will be a Garden Mic meeting after the October meeting to review weeding.

Meret will be leaving to return back home to Switzerland. Thank you Meret for all your time spent here with us and for your contributions!

Meret was with us for 2.5 months, learning about community gardening and gathering information about social anthropology and urban agriculture as part of her Master's Degree thesis. 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. She will be writing a 90 page thesis in German. We have requested a copy - Johanna is fluent in German! A brief survey was distributed by Meret among garden members to better learn our individual experiences.

Lexy will be hosting her son's 5th Birthday party in the garden next Saturday. It was reminded garden members hosting events in the garden need to fill out an event form.

Next General Meeting will be held on October 4th 1-2PM

Minutes recorded and typed by Jennifer Richman, garden secretary