

## PHCF BOARD MEETING, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2015

**PRESENT:** Johanna Bauman, Aaron Dobish, Will Law, Traci Nottingham, Catherine Orrok, Rosemary Palms, Lee Schere, Kayla Schwarz, Jennie Spector, Brian Thompson, Eva Wang, Virginia Webster.

The board met at Brian's home. Johanna chaired the meeting, which started at 7:40 p.m. and ended at about 8:45.

### **1. Discussion of family memberships and how they are defined.**

We encourage families and partners to join PHCF. Each adult that joins will have his or her own member rights and responsibilities.

Adult family members may share one box, or each may have his or her own box.

- If both adult family members request their own box, each member will be put on the waiting list, and once a box is assigned, each will have the responsibilities of a box-holding member.
- In the case of a shared box request, the household should identify the "primary member." Only the primary member will be put on the waiting list, and once a box is assigned, will have the rights and responsibilities of a box-holding member. Additional family members who pay dues and are issued keys will have the rights and responsibilities of general members. (Note: Additional adult family members are not required to formally join the garden in order to enjoy it; however, keys are only issued to garden members.)

### **2. Purchases needed.**

- The new hose is already leaking, but maybe can be repaired during our next work day.
- The hose protector-ramps have failed. It's time to spring for the expensive (\$600 last check) heavy permanent metal ramps. With permission of the general membership, Virginia and Brian will make the purchase at the Coast Guard place on Staten Island.
- The Green Thumb giveaway of winter supplies and tools happens on the first weekend of December, in Long Island City. Based on Jean's inventory of tool shed holdings, we will pick up only what we need for this coming winter. Johanna offered her car to pick up what is needed.
- 10 trowels to be purchased. Jean was researching the best quality models.
- Broom.
- We need some basic household tools like hammers, a hacksaw blade, and screwdrivers. We'll send out an email asking members if they have extras they can donate.
- Some tools need to be sharpened -- just a question of calling the tool-sharpening guy the morning of the day we want him.

### **3. Water tanks.**

The tanks are not filling properly. The problem needs to be diagnosed and corrected for next season.

The tanks will be drained during the November work day. Brian will disconnect the pipes. During the first spring work day the tanks will be cleaned before re-assembly.

#### **4. Soil for next year.**

If we are managing our boxes correctly, soil should not have to be added to the boxes every year. All box holders are reminded to cover their boxes with compost for over the winter, or better yet, plant a cover crop to enrich the soil and prevent erosion. An email will advise boxholders to assess their soil needs now and request soil as needed for the next planting season.

#### **5. Untended boxes.**

Two or three boxholders need to be mindful of the garden rules about keeping boxes tended. If circumstances prevent proper care of boxes, the holders have several options -- for example, to share with someone on the long wait list, or to lend the box for one season to someone on the wait list. This will be an item for the general meeting in November.

#### **Other business:**

- Will we plant bulbs this fall? Last year some good bulbs were purchased from the food co-op.
- It might be a good idea to ask stewards of garden areas to report on the program's progress this first year.
- The communal vegetable beds were a mixed success. Rules should be made more clear -- if you plant it, you should care for it and harvest it. Suggestion: Next year planters should put their names on their plants. Someone should be sure these beds are cleared for the winter.
- What should happen to the old communal strawberry box? It was too shady for the berries. Should it be offered to the folks on the box waiting list, or re-planted with strawberries once the dogwood branch is taken down and perhaps more sun will reach the box.
- Last weekend's BANG fundraiser was a big success, raising \$1300. Another will be next Sunday -- selling food to marathon watchers. Bring donations to the garden at President and Fifth Avenue.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Palms, co-secretary