

**Prospect Heights Community Farm
Garden Membership Meeting, Saturday, November 14, 2015, 1 p.m.**

Present: Akosua Albritton, Johanna Bauman, Louise Brooks, Joanne Dittersdorf, Aaron Dobish, Val Douglas, Asli Erdem, Dan Fried, Michelle Fried, Faye Hays (visiting, new member), Abbie Hurewitz, Anne Lai, Ruth Manning, Rosemarie Maurer, Traci Nottingham, Catherine Orrok, Rosemary Palms, Josh Rubin, Melissa Rubin, Lee Schere, Jeff Secor, Jessica Stein, Virginia Webster.

Johanna Bauman chaired the meeting, beginning at 1:05 p.m.

The October membership meeting **minutes** were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report (Johanna):

- The PHCF bank account transition to the BANG umbrella account proceeds slowly. A bank card is coming, allowing us to charge purchases. Written receipts are necessary for reimbursements. There is a form for tax exempt status purchases. Try to use cash for purchases under \$100. Johanna will propose more formal guidelines at the next (annual) meeting in February or March.
- Our bank balance is essentially unchanged from the October report. (Later update: Checking: \$3,442; Petty Cash: \$465; Total \$3,907.)

Service hours (Aaron):

- An updated printed list of member totals was handed around, and is available at the website.
- **Family rules for service hours have been clarified** and will be updated on the website. Essentially, two adults in one family may have one box each, or may opt for one shared box for the family, that box to be listed under a primary name. Family members may contribute service hours, but must list the primary name for credit for those hours. 20 service hours are required per box per year. Members without boxes are required to complete 10 service hours per year. Keys are issued to members. If you have a key, you must do service hours.
- Opportunities for earning service hours still exist for this year – e.g., compost team, snow shoveling, leaf shredding, mulch-fest.

Boxes (coordinator not present): One person on the box waitlist, Kira Corbin, has left the garden; therefore everyone behind her on that list has moved up one.

Master gardeners:

- Virginia: PHCF helped finish the million-tree city planting project!!
- Catherine: the brush pile needs turning over—part of today's workday agenda.
- Traci: see Traci for a list of other workday projects that need attention.

Compost (Lee):

- The leaf drop project needs more leaves. Help gather more! The Brooklyn Botanic Garden will help with the shredding.
- Composting continues through the winter months. Please volunteer for weekly shifts on Sundays, 12-2.

BANG (Virginia): The fundraiser netted \$1300. PHCF members bought the most raffle tickets, and sold the most raffle tickets prior to the fundraiser; we also arranged for many prizes, and took home several prizes. Suggestion for next one: hold it in Brooklyn, and/or start earlier.

Next year's board membership (Johanna): start thinking now about elections at the annual meeting. Are you willing to serve? Let Johanna know if you wish to continue serving in current positions, or if you'd like to serve. One known need: a new treasurer.

Tools:

- We agreed to purchase new metal heavy-duty ramps to protect our hoses from street vehicle traffic. A motion to authorize up to \$600 for this purchase was overwhelmingly passed (one no vote). Virginia and Brian will follow up with the acquisition. Anyone who finds a great bargain (e.g., freecycle or craigslist) should let them know.
- Green Thumb giveaway is December 5, 10-1. Virginia offered her car. Johanna will accompany her and review what supplies and tools we need.
- Trowels: Jean will purchase.
- Snow shovels: Purchase one ergonomic shovel. Others available from Green Thumb.
- Rosemary and Traci plan a pick-up of donated tools on November 15, from a friend in Queens.

New display sign: Motion to authorize up to \$350 for a new weatherproof sign passed overwhelmingly (one no vote). Lee and Traci will follow up.

Mulchfest of Christmas trees is scheduled for January 9 and 10. Dan will spearhead this project.

Greenhouse dreams (Jeff): Jeff will develop a specific proposal (cost, dimensions, proposed site) over the winter months for our consideration at the annual meeting. Meantime, cold frames are being constructed over some of our boxes. Jeff is available to help. Virginia suggested that we visit other gardens which have installed greenhouses, to learn from their experience.

The stewardship plan: how has it worked? Stewards of various areas in the garden will be asked to give reports, evaluations, and recommendations at the annual meeting.

Workday today: the agenda includes planting the donated plants, rhizomes, and bulbs from Lynn Armentrout; turning the brush pile; clearing the common boxes and the children's box; draining the water tanks (to be disconnected by Brian soon, and cleaned in the spring); and sharpening tools (Mike the sharpener is expected before 3 p.m.). (The huge invasive vine growth originating in the garden on our west border must be tackled as a special project later.)

Adjournment: 2 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Palms, co-secretary