

PHCF GENERAL MEETING, JUNE 12, 2016 MINUTES

Present: Philip A, Greg B, Stav B, Allison B, Rita C (new), Fausta D, Joey D, Aaron D, Val D, Dan F, Michelle F, Naima G (new), Jessica K (new), William L, Anne L, Rosemarie M, Bree M, Traci N, Catherine O, Rosemary P, Anna R, Lee S, Kayla S, Marva S, Jeff S, Alex T (new), Brian L. T, Lisa W.

Michelle called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. by asking us to introduce ourselves.

Minutes for the April general meeting were approved as corrected with 2 abstentions; minutes for the May general meeting were approved as corrected with 1 no and 4 abstentions.

Reports:

- **Service hours** (Aaron): we were reminded of member obligations to work service hours. The numbers are updated through May.
- **Communications** (Will): no new updates.
- **Compost** (Lee): The process is going strong. New volunteers are needed. Bags of leaves are accepted only in the fall.
- **Boxes** (Joey): The waiting list includes 3 boxholders waiting to switch boxes and 19 members waiting for their first box. The box map is up to date and will be posted in the shed.
- **Master gardeners** (Traci): All the plant sale helpers were warmly thanked. (The treasurer's report in May included these figures: \$943 in gross sales, then subtracting \$120 for starter cash and about \$300 to buy plants; the net profit was about \$500.)

Philip A. was thanked for picking up GreenThumb supplies for the garden.

The stewards of various common areas in the garden were identified so that members could volunteer to work with them during today's work day, or any time.

- **BANG** (Kayla): BANG was briefly described for new members as a land trust association of 6 gardens. It always needs more garden members to volunteer for BANG-sponsored events, like tabling at street fairs, a bake sale on Marathon Day, and maybe an activity at Atlantic Antic in September. We were reminded that

BANG owns a tent and makes it available to member gardens for their own events.

- **Treasurer** (Brian): In the bank we have a balance of \$3,293.94. We have \$322.85 in petty cash. 44 members have paid dues for this year; 22 members have not paid dues.
- **Stewards** (Traci): The stewardship project assigns stewards to common areas, so that members know who to ask if they want to help maintain or develop those areas. Catherine invited members to help in her area during her open hours shift this Tuesday, June 14, 4-6 p.m.

Water update: The fire hydrant leak was fixed, but now has a magnetic lock which needs a special device to unlock. We are waiting for that device.

Meantime, the rain catchment tanks are full, and although they were leaking, they are no longer leaking for some reason. Eventually they no doubt will have to be fixed from inside the tanks.

Catherine asked us to consider a major capital expense (thousands of dollars) to obtain our own access to the city water supply. Our water use would be metered, with a \$140 annual minimum bill. Brian volunteered to ask BANG about the feasibility of this idea since the other four BANG gardens have gone through this process already.

Garden visits: The school visits seem to be going rather well. On June 17 at 3:30 a school group wants to come to talk with middle-schoolers about “food justice.” They need a member to welcome them and possibly give a tour of the garden. Members were asked to read Johanna’s notice on the listserv and volunteer with Johanna if they are available.

“Art in our Park”: Traci proposed a public art event, with visual art, poetry, music, etc. Maybe include an auction. Probably we could not charge admission. Stav offered to post an announcement on a Park Slope Parents listserv, and she thought there would be a good response from artists.

Kids climbing trees: There is some worry about liability in case of injury. Michelle will ask Virginia to ask BANG and GreenThumb about existing or recommended policy. Stav offered to help Virginia.

Media in the garden: There have been precedents for filming in the garden, with protocols followed, including rules, fees, and obtaining

prior permission. An Earth Day celebration was allowed, for example, and the group donated \$1000 to the garden.

Yesterday a group working for Pacific Park entered the garden and filmed without permission. Members are reminded to tell media people to submit an event form before they begin work. There is a question about our rights: is the garden considered private property if it is required to be open to the public some of the time? Joey and Michelle favor writing a letter spelling out our policy and making it clear that they may not use material generated in our garden without our permission. Val urges us to build a positive relationship and come to a mutual and friendly understanding.

A group called "Leave It Better" has asked permission to film in the garden. It seems to be an educational outfit, providing information on farms, community gardens, etc. Aaron suggested clarifying our policy with the company. Joey asked about our policy on fees and donations. Michelle will post these concerns and questions on the listserv for feedback from the membership.

The next meeting is Wednesday, July 13, at 7 p.m. We decided by general acclamation to make it a potluck supper.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Palms, co-secretary