

## PHCF General Meeting Minutes July 2016

date: Wednesday, July 13th time 7:10PM

### Attendance:

Marva W., Joey D., Sabina I., Jeff S., Kayla S., Melissa R., Ruth M., Rosemary P., Traci N., Jennie S., Eva W., Joanne D., Aaron D., Jennifer R.

### New members:

Charrow, Dana B.

Meeting lead by Traci with a brief round of introductions and orientation for new members

### Minutes Ratification:

June meeting minutes approved 7 yes, 0 no, 3 abstentions

### Service Hours Report by Aaron

July and August open hours calendar passed around among attending members and were reminded to please sign up. An updated chart indicating completed open and service hours will be posted soon.

### Compost Report by Jennie

Recently a neighbor complained about a strong odor coming from the compost bins. To address the issue, members of the PHCF Board asked for more details such as timing of the odor (i.e. what day of the week, time, etc) to assess possible causes. As it currently stands, the odor does not seem to coincide with Sunday compost work. The compost team also recently invited the compost coordinator of BBG to assess the status of our compost system to explore any possible causes.

Some current suggestions as to how to limit causes for strong odor:

PH levels of the compost could affect break down and cause stronger odor due to rotting. To avoid overly acidic comp[ost, it is suggested that members do not place pine needles/evergreen needles into the compost bins.

Members are requested to add more browns.

The compost team can be more diligent in assessing what is placed in compost bins and ask garden members/persons dropping off compost to chop up the items to be composted into 2-3 inch pieces. It is request to place less woody material into the bins. Reminded that nothing with seeds should be placed in the compost bins.

Persons doing open hours and/or persons dropping off compost are requested to air-rate the the wooden compost bins during their shift. One can use the shovel for the cans. A full flip is unnecessary, a simple aeration is all that is needed.

Val is looking for a few thousand dollars funding to construct a solar powered compost tumbler. Jeff is willing to construct an engineering plan for grant funding. A team would be formed to build it from scratch.

#### Box Coordinator Report by Joey

There are 19 people on the box waiting list. There has been no movement this past month.

More movement is likely next Spring.

Box holders are requested to trim around their boxes. It is each box holder's responsibility to do so. The paths are becoming overgrown.

#### Master Gardener Report by Traci

Garden members are reminded that weeding needs to be done.

There will be a work-day this Saturday at 10AM. Included in this work day will be weeding.

PHCF is seeking a volunteer to attend the upcoming BANG (Brooklyn Association of Neighborhood Gardens) meeting. BANG is our Land Trust. The meeting will be held at the 615 Green garden at 7PM. As of now, there are no volunteers to represent our garden - both our representatives are currently not able to make it.

#### Treasury Report by Jeff

PHCF currently has \$3293.94 in the BANG account.

If people would like to facilitate the garden in obtaining more woodchips that would be most welcome.

#### General Matters and Discussion

Recent unauthorized filming in the garden -

Videographers from Pacific Park took video footage in the garden without permission from the Board. They claimed that this footage would not be used however it is requested that garden members keep a look out for footage of the garden in any ads which that they see. In the future it is suggested that we create a specific form where persons can ask for approval of filming online.

#### Lead test updates

Recently elevated Lead levels have been found in samples taken in the garden when Joey collected samples from the communal bed, the herb circle, and his

box. The garden board is currently looking into the sources of the problem and ways to problem solve the issue. Re-testing and additional testing has recently been done, organized by Maureen O'Brian from BBG. Samples were sent out to the U-Mass and Brooklyn College labs to compare findings. The additional sites tested are the compost bins, the path, and Jennifer R's bed (because she often hosts pre-school children on class trips to plant and grow vegetables in her bed). The board is also looking into testing the hydrant water for elevated lead levels, which may occur for reasons including construction in the area. We will also try to evaluate the water being collected from the water collecting system in the garden. Jeff has a contact that may be able to assist us with evaluating lead levels using a portable tester. This can include sampling water from the hydrant and scanning vegetables grown in the garden. She will let us know when she is available to come to the garden to do so. Michelle recently sent out an email to the listserve, educating garden members about how to lessen risk of lead exposure.

### Filming

Someone has approached the garden, wanting to do some filming. The board is looking into this and Joey offered to creating an event form document specifically for this purpose that can be easily accessible online.

### Sinage

A plan is in place to create a new sign for the garden for purposes of posting events/meetings. Ruth brought in a dry-erase board recently which will be used in the construction of the sign. Jeff has offered to take on the project of constructing it, to be done during the upcoming work day.

### Announcements/reminders

Thank you Akousa for the fire hydrant repair work that was recently done.  
Joey and Jeff - thank you for fixing the red hose  
Jean K, thank you for getting us the new trowels.

Next meeting is on Saturday, August 13th 11AM

Summer BBQ August 20th 2PM.

Reminder- the Strawberry communal bed is full of ripe strawberries. Please remember to eat them and remember to leave enough to share with fellow gardeners. There are also ripe blackberries.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53PM. Meeting minutes typed by Jennifer R. Garden Secretary