

## PHCF GENERAL MEETING, AUGUST 13, 2016 MINUTES

**Present:** Akosua A, Johanna B, Alison B, Louise B, Ted D, Rose D (new), Dan F, Michelle F, Ruth M, Traci N, Rosemary P, Jeff S, Jessica S, Jansyn T (new), Brian T.

Johanna called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. She welcomed new members and asked us to introduce ourselves.

**Minutes** for the July general meeting were not yet available; approval will be on the September meeting agenda.

### **Reports:**

- **Service hours** (Jeff): we were reminded of member obligations to work service hours. Aaron is keeping the numbers up to date at our website.
- **Communications:** no new updates available.
- **Compost** (Jessica): Neighbors have complained about potent odors. We have met with the neighbors and are applying remedies like more aeration and more browns like sawdust applied. There have been no complaints since the meeting.
- **Boxes:** We have some soil testing results back and are waiting for the rest. Then we will have a thorough report at a members' meeting. Jeff's contact with the portable soil tester has put that project on hold. In general we are cautioned to wash our produce before eating.
- **Master gardeners** (Traci): (1) she emphasized the importance of aerating the compost to reduce odors, encouraging everyone to give the first two boxes a crank with the corkscrew during their open hours shifts. (2) She is compiling a history of soil testing results so that we can see the bigger picture and determine what remedies and recommendations to proceed with. (3) A question about the health of the Japanese maple was raised, and Traci will investigate it.
- **BANG** (Ted): BANG was briefly described for new members as a land trust alliance of several gardens. A BANG meeting was held at our garden on August 11, which included reports from all the gardens. The Pacific garden won a "greenest block" award this year.
- **Treasurer** (Brian): (1) In the bank we have a balance of \$3,237.17. We have \$115 in petty cash. (2) A new hydrant

wrench was ordered because the previous one disappeared. (3) We were reminded to present the original receipts of purchases in order to be reimbursed. (4) New members were informed about our sliding dues scale and the waiting list for boxes. (5) BANG requires quarterly financial reports, but Dan, the BANG treasurer, hasn't asked for them yet.

**Announcements:**

- Jeff told us a little about using the plants in Eva's box for making dyes.
- Our neighbor on the west side asks us to take down the vines growing on her building.
- BBQ next Saturday: Jeff and Johanna will buy a variety of franks, buns, and beverages. We already have a supply of plates, cutlery, and napkins. Members were invited to bring condiments and a side dish or dessert to share. We agreed to budget purchases for up to \$100 of garden funds. Rain date the following day.

**New proposal** to think about (Jeff): The new residential buildings going up around the garden often have large open spaces behind them. Why not offer to help set up communal "farms" with the residents? Jeff thinks of this as a possible business. Discussion was lively: Do we need to do a better job "farming" our own space before marketing our services to others? Can we be more welcoming and positive toward new residents - maybe hold an open house for them? BANG sponsored some workers through the Summer Youth Employment Program, and maybe we could participate in something like that through BANG. Perhaps we could offer to buy plants near wholesale together with residents starting communal farms.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon. Our next members' meeting will be September 10, 11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rosemary Palms, co-secretary