

PHCF GENERAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

MINUTES

Present: Johanna B, Stav B, Joey D, Val D, Martha E, Dan F, Michelle F, Anna H, Abbie H, Jean K, Will L, Traci N, Rosemary P, Selina R (new), Melissa R, Lee S, Jeff S, Jennie S, Brian T, Eva W.

Johanna called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m.

Reports:

- **Service hours** (Jeff): The last day of open hours this year is October 31. Aaron is keeping the numbers and members' totals up to date at our website.
- **Compost** (Lee): (1) Neighbors who complained about potent odors seem to be satisfied that we have solved the issue. (2) Repair of the tops of the bins is needed. The compost committee will plan to do this at the October 16 work day. (3) We will put up a sign at the bins to discourage the composting of condoms.
- **Boxes** (Joey): (1) 19 names are on the waitlist for boxes; however, no name has been added for several months, so our records on new members need to be checked. (2) Many boxes need to be repaired. Delivery of lumber and soil is expected sometime this fall.
- **Master gardeners** (Traci): (1) Vines on the neighbor's wall have been cut. It's time to pull them down during work day today. (2) There is a plant database available, with illustrations, on our website. (3) There was agreement during discussion to toss seeds older than 2 or 3 years from the supply in the shed.
- **BANG** (Brian): There is a movie and potluck supper tonight. The next meeting is September 15 at 7 p.m. at the Brooklyn Bears garden.
- **Treasurer** (Brian): (1) In the bank we have a balance of \$3,237.27. We have about \$100 in petty cash. (2) We were reminded to present the original receipts of purchases in order to be reimbursed for expenses okayed by the treasurer ahead of time – up to \$50 for members and up to \$300 for coordinators.

Minutes: The July 2016 minutes were approved, and the August 2016 minutes were approved as corrected. (Traci had asked that members aerate the first two compost bins, by cranking the corkscrew tool, during their open hours in order to hasten composting and reduce odor.)

Proposed rule change: Brian had proposed a no smoking rule after the March 2016 annual meeting in response to a call for proposed rule changes sent by Johanna on March 22nd, 2016, to the listserv. Johanna had added it to today's agenda in two recent emails to the listserv, as follows:

“That Prospect Heights Community Farm be a smoke-free green space, similar to Parks, that smoking be curtailed to outside the garden property. (Whether that be outside the gates or outside the property entirely could be up for discussion.)” This statement was formalized as a motion by Brian and seconded by Jeff.

A robust discussion followed, which included these points for the motion: We want to create a clean, healthy space that we can all enjoy; there is value in being role models of healthy living; second-hand smoke is a danger to our health; cigarette butts often are left behind as unsightly litter.

Against the motion: Our garden already has too many rules; we want to be a welcoming, not an excluding community, which includes being sensitive to the demographics shift in this neighborhood; perhaps we could have a “no smoking please” sign instead of a formal rule; if only a few members smoke, maybe it isn’t a problem that needs a rule.

After a lengthy discussion, Michelle moved to table Brian’s motion. Anna seconded. This tabling motion passed with 13 ayes, 3 nays, and 3 abstaining.

Brian’s original motion will be taken up at the October meeting, giving us another month to consider the pros and cons, as suggested by some members.

The other agenda item, regarding a rules change about the use of alcohol in the garden, is also postponed for now.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20. Our next members’ meeting will be October 16, 1 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Palms, co-secretary