

PHCF GENERAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 12, 2016 MINUTES

Present: Akosua A, Joanne D, Cilla E (new), Rachel I (new), Ruth M, John M (new), Redelia N, Traci N, Rosemary P, Jeff S.

Traci called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. by asking us to introduce ourselves.

Minutes for the October general meeting: Approval was postponed until corrections can be added and more members can be present who had attended the October meeting.

Reports:

- **Service hours** (Aaron D, by email): The numbers are updated through October and can be found on the website.
- **Master gardeners** (Traci): There will be hundreds of bulbs available from the Prospect Heights Street Tree Task Force (PHSTT) for public planting. She proposed doing a give-away in conjunction with PHSTT from our garden gate for general neighborhood community members to plant in their front yards and tree pits, and to use some, if we wish, in our own garden. Approval by consensus, with date and time to be determined.
- **BANG, Communications, Compost, and Boxes** : No updates available.
- **Treasurer** (Jeff): In the bank we have a balance of \$2,967.20. We have about \$71 in petty cash.

Discussion: Lost and found items in the garden.

- A pot pipe was found. We are reminded that possession of marijuana is illegal in New York State.
- Plants and fruits have disappeared from individuals' boxes and from the community garden - e.g., loofa, broccoli, eggplant, kale, tomatoes. We are reminded not to forage from plants not our own. Open hours volunteers may not give permission to visitors to do any harvesting without permission of boxholders or master gardeners.
- There has been unauthorized pruning of the trifoliolate orange tree, and about 20 fruits were lost. Only stewards of designated areas and master gardeners can give approval for pruning of plants in community spaces.

- Signs were removed that had asked composters not to put condoms in the bins .

Action approved by general consensus, with one dissent: A notice will be posted both on the garden's Facebook page and on its website that asks garden members and visitors to the garden to respect the rights of gardeners to harvest their own plants. In addition, a similar announcement shall be made at each garden meeting, as well as to clarify what fruits, herbs, and cutting flowers are for general enjoyment.

Finally, Traci -- as coordinator and master gardener -- asked any garden member who notices something amiss to let the coordinators or master gardeners know - "If you see something, say something" - so that we gain a better understanding of the problem and the magnitude of the problem.

Announcements:

- Alexandra has become a citizen, and furthermore, has voted for the first time. Congratulations.
- Ted is thanked for all his conscientious service to the garden, including as BANG representative, as he and his family move to Albany for a new job.
- Tasks still to do include winterizing the garden (water tanks especially) and dismantling the scarecrows.
- A volunteer is needed to accept soil delivery next week. Joanne D is available, but not on Thursday.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Palms, co-secretary