

PHCF GENERAL MEETING
April 8, 2017
MINUTES

Present:

Aaron D, Alex H, Anne L, Ben G (new), Eli (visiting), Brian T, Cilla E, Frances N, Greg M (new), Jean K, Jeff S, Jennifer R, John M, Joey D, Lisa W, Louise B, Luke R, Lynn A, Martha E, Michelle F, Otilia S, Philip A, Rachel G (new), Rosemarie M, Ruth M, Selina R, Traci N, Tristan J (visiting), Valentine D, Will L,

Michelle called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. She welcomed new members and asked us to introduce ourselves.

Minutes for the March general meeting were ratified. Members were encouraged to read minutes when circulated and confirm their accuracy including that those present were properly recorded as such.

Reports:

- Service hours (Aaron & Anna): We were reminded of member obligations to work service hours. Aaron is keeping the numbers up to date on our website.
- Compost (Michelle on behalf of Lee & Jennie): The compost team is always looking for more people to participate. Compost shifts are every Sunday now from 10-12 and these hours are also considered open hours.

Compost applied for a grant and expects to hear by April 22nd. The proposal was to set up a system to test the quality of the compost, repair the leaf bin and do an educational event. The event, which will likely happen regardless, will coincide with the plant sale on Saturday May 13th. People will be invited to the compost area to do some part of the process and receive a

baggie of compost that includes some information about dropping off scraps and our hours.

In two years of measuring our input and output, 25,896 pounds of organic material have been from the waste stream and 7,011 pounds of compost have been produced.

Members were asked to only take enough compost for a top layer on their bed because there won't be more finished compost for at least another week.

- Boxes (Joey): Congratulations to those that received a bed this year. Sections of the shared beds in the back of the garden will be offered to the next 6 people on the bed waiting list. We received more wood for repairing boxes. There may be extra wood once all of those boxes earmarked for new wood have been repaired.

- Master gardeners (Traci): We were reminded that members may submit proposals to steward any of the communal beds in the garden. They can also ask a steward to join their team and work on the communal beds with their guidance.

During the workday we plan to reconnect the rainwater collection tanks.

There will be an opportunity to plant daffodil bulbs on Vanderbilt Avenue on Sunday April 9.

There are seeds in the shed available for members to plant.

- BANG (Louise): BANG was briefly described for new members as a land trust alliance of 5 gardens. A BANG meeting will be held at our garden on May 6. Currently our treasurers do not have direct access to our BANG bank account. BANG only

allows our BANG representatives to have direct access. This is not ideal and other options are being investigated.

- Treasurer (Brian): In the bank we have a balance of \$3,421. We have \$212.45 in petty cash. We were reminded to present the original receipts of purchases in order to be reimbursed. The garden needs a new enclosed corkboard for posting notices on the outside of the gate. Brian presented specifications for one that is available for purchase for \$182.

- Communications: We were reminded that we primarily communicate via listserv. If new members are looking for things to do during open hours, that info is available on our website.

Announcements:

- A BANG meeting will be held at our garden on May 6 at 1:45 following our meeting which begins at 1 pm. Members who attend both meetings that day from 1pm – 2:30pm will get credit for attending 2 meetings.

- The Plant Sale will take place on May 7, 13 & 14 during open hours. Volunteers are needed to sign up.

- Members were encouraged to volunteer to represent that garden at a table at 'Spring in Prospect Heights' which takes place on May 13 in the PS 9 yard. Jennifer described her past experience at the event.

- The kids digging box is in need of repair.

- Joey and Ruth volunteered to pick up supplies from the GreenThumb Garden Supply Give-away on April 15th.

Votes:

We voted to purchase the enclosed corkboard presented by Brian.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm. Our next members' meeting will be May 6, 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Elliot, co-secretary