

## **PHCF General Meeting, May 6, 2017 -- Minutes**

**Present** (\*\* = new members): Michelle F, Rosemary P, Akosua A, Samantha S\*\*, Allison B, Daniel F, Erica B, Jeff S, Nathalie D\*\*, Brooke B\*\*, Joanne D, Stephanie G\*\*, Brian T, Catherine O, Joey D, Charrow, Traci N, Johanna B, Melissa R, Joshua R, Virginia W, Evan S\*\*, Casey F, Alex H, Rosemarie M, Louise B, Anna Rose H, William L, Eva W, Jennie S, Selina R, Kayla S, Lee S, Candice N\*\*, Perry N\*\*, Aaron D, Lisa W, Ruth M, Colleen T\*\*, Francis N.

In addition there were Brooklyn Alliance of Neighborhood Gardens (BANG) guests from other gardens: Sheila M, Jon C, Maggie S, Jiwon C.

Michelle opened the meeting at 1:10 p.m., welcoming everyone and asking us to briefly introduce ourselves. She explained that the meeting is planned to be shorter today because a BANG meeting will follow immediately. Those who stay for the BANG meeting will be given credit for attending two meetings toward their required number. She also asked that persons not yet members refrain from voting on motions.

**The April 2017 general meeting minutes were approved**, with one correction: the service hours coordinators are Aaron and Anna.

### **Board Members' Reports:**

**BANG** (Joanne and Louise) – They explained the reason for the second meeting today. The BANG meetings will be held monthly, but at a different member garden each month. A bike tour of the member gardens is being planned for June 3.

**Boxes** (Joey) – All boxes are assigned (but he reminded us that dues must be paid, due today, or box assignments will be forfeited). Eighteen members are on the wait list for boxes. The first 6 members on the wait list are sharing the two “community boxes” in the back.

**Communications** (Will) – Our main means of communication is through email with a listserv. See also the website ([phcfarm.com](http://phcfarm.com)), Twitter, and Facebook. A new old-fashioned bulletin board has been purchased and is already installed on the front fence.

**Service Hours** (Aaron and Anna) – They explained our system of requiring members to keep open hours, signing up for time slots on the calendar on the bulletin board inside the garden. They reported the good news that all time slots but one were covered for the month of April. At the end of each month the members' tallies are updated on the website.

**Compost** (Lee and Jennie) – Lee described how the compost team works and welcomed new volunteers to sign up to help by emailing [compost@phcfarm.com](mailto:compost@phcfarm.com). On the next workday, June 4, the leaf bin will be rebuilt. A \$520 grant from The Citizens Committee of New York City will help us stage a demonstration of the composting system for the public, as well as purchase equipment to measure the maturity of the compost and to analyze its soil composition.

**Treasurer** (Brian) – Our petty cash balance is \$384.66. Because he does not have access to our bank account, he guessed that the balance there is \$2694.79. The membership dues deadline is today. To date 38 members have paid up, and 33 have not. Expenditures include purchase of the new bulletin board and plants for the plant sale.

**Brian made a motion to change our banking process from using the BANG account to establishing our own community organization account.** We would apply for EIN status with the IRS. The PHCF two treasurers would be authorized as signatories of the checks (rather than the BANG representatives, as is the case now). BANG approves of this change, and will still provide nonprofit status for tax-free major purchases. After considerable discussion of the details, **the motion was approved with 26 yes votes, zero no votes, and 3 abstentions.**

**Master Gardeners** (Traci, Catherine, and Virginia) –

- The children's planting box needs re-building.
- Plant sale flyers are available for posting. Please volunteer to take shifts at the plant sale, which is being held over three days.
- Two common areas of the garden are still unstewarded: please email Traci to volunteer to be a steward.
- A new peach tree is being provided by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. We need a volunteer to pick it up on May 13, between 10 and 11 a.m.
- We need volunteers to manage our table at two events: "Spring in Prospect Heights" on May 13, and "Spring in Bedford-Stuyvesant" on June 3.

**New Business:**

**Year-round Gardening Program grant** (Jeff) – Jeff and Traci wrote a proposal to fund ways to serve the community by extending the growing season in the garden through installation of a greenhouse. The Citizens Committee of New York City awarded us \$2300 of the \$2400 requested.

Since this idea was not previously discussed by the membership, several questions needed to be answered. Traci had this information from the Citizens Committee: (1) we need to decide whether to accept the money within the next two weeks; (2) if we accept the money, we are allowed to change or adjust the

details of the proposal, in communication with the Citizens Committee; (3) our time line for spending the money would be within this gardening season.

Discussion included the idea that the proposed greenhouse might be replaced by cold frames or other ways to extend the growing season. One member objected to the pressure to accept the money without thorough exploration of potential plans, costs involved, or volunteers to take on the work. Another member suggested the possibility of calling a special meeting for further discussion and more time to present options.

**A motion was made to accept the grant money for a year-round gardening program. The motion passed**, with 20 voting yes, 5 voting no, and 3 abstaining.

**Announcement** (Akosua): The water permit was obtained and is posted on the interior bulletin board; and a special adaptor to fit into the fire hydrant, to be carefully guarded, will be attached to our hose.

The meeting was adjourned at about 2:10 p.m.

[The next general meeting will be Sunday, June 4, 11 a.m.]

Respectfully submitted,  
Rosemary Palms, Secretary