

## **PHCF General Meeting, October 15, 2017 -- Minutes**

**Members Present:** Abbie H, Akusoa A, Anna H, Casey F, Greg M, Jeff S, Jennie S, Joanne D, Kayla S, Lee S, Lisa W, Marva W, Michael C, Penelope W, Philip A, Rosemary P, Selina R, Traci N, Virginia W, Zach D.

**Prospective Members Present:** Cecelia S, Pamela T, Rebecca M, Shahzad I.

Traci opened the meeting at 1:06 p.m., welcoming everyone and asking us to briefly introduce ourselves.

**Ratification of the September 2017 general meeting minutes** was postponed so that Traci's addition to the draft of the minutes could be incorporated.

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

**Treasurer** (Virginia subbing for Brian and Martha): Our checking balance is \$6,411.53, which includes a check from BANG covering the amount of the greenhouse grant from CCNYC (because the CCNYC check bounced for unknown reasons). We have \$411.53 in petty cash. Recent transactions include receiving \$40 from September dues collection, \$40 was advanced for the shrubbery sale.

### **Compost** (Lee):

- Repairs and rebuilding of bins continue.
- Volunteers (always needed) work once a week on Saturdays 10-12 noon; winter hours will be 12-2.
- A happy hour meeting and celebration for volunteers is planned for November 2 at 7 p.m. (Watch the listserv for details.)
- A leaf-drop drive will begin soon. We ran short of leaves last year, which we chop up and use for browns in the composting process; so this year we will publicize more broadly and try to collect more leaves.

**Service Hours** (Anna) – Members' totals are updated on the website. It's always good to check your totals for accuracy. Our September coverage fell short: seven shifts were not covered. Please sign up for time slots for the rest of October. The books close on open hours on October 31. (New members' requirements are pro-rated.)

**Communications** (Traci for Will) – Members communicate mainly through a listserv. See also the website ([phcfarm.com](http://phcfarm.com)), Twitter, and Facebook.

### **Master Gardeners** (Traci and Virginia) –

- New stewards of a common area: Michael and Casey. One common area of the garden is still un stewarded. See Traci if you are interested in becoming a steward.
- The autumn plant/shrubbery sale last weekend netted \$60. Thank you to Traci for organizing.

- A traffic crash on our block injured some pedestrians, a family. We have five schools on this block. There will be a town hall meeting on safety on October 26. See listserv for details.
- Be respectful of other gardeners' produce. It is disheartening to have long-awaited harvest disappear. (Joey had peppers stolen.)
- Congratulations to prize winners at the fair: Lisa's dahlias and Traci's "fresh chef" slaw.

**BANG** (Joanne, with Kayla):

- Sheila is stepping down as president.
- The next meeting is this Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at the President St. garden.
- BANG holds a bake sale every Marathon Day and asks for donated goods. See the listserv for details.

### Other Business:

**PHCF 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season** (Traci): The garden in its current iteration is 20 years old. Can we celebrate during all next year under the guidance of an Events Committee? Cecelia volunteered to start organizing. Members made suggestions:

- That neighborhood musicians be invited to give concerts.
- That we include a historical component in our events – maybe a ten-minute talk before an event, for example.
- What about a historical marker of some sort? Maybe on the street fence. (Zach offered to look into this idea.)

**Pumpkin Smash Potato Bake Bash:** This is an annual celebration of the end of the season, held on the weekend after Halloween. We smash pumpkins for composting and bake potatoes as part of a BBQ picnic. (Lee noted that there are too many pumpkins for our compost system to handle, so if we celebrate on a Saturday, we can contribute the smashed pumpkins to the Grand Army Plaza Farmers Market compost collection.) Details to follow on the listserv.

**Remembering Ella Morgenlander and honoring Frances Norwood** (Traci): Traci suggested that we consider memorializing Ella with a plaque on a bench. It was suggested that a plaque honoring Frances could be installed in or near our "entrance plaza." Zach will research cost of plaques and other details.

A motion, to remember Ella with a memorial bench and to honor Frances with a plaque in or near our entrance, was passed unanimously.

**Cactus for our new greenhouse** (Casey): A rare cactus placed in our greenhouse might be a way to support saving cactus species as climate change and other factors threaten their existence. Discussion included worry about whether the source of the cactus was ethical; whether the greenhouse committee has agreed or has objections; and whether the growing conditions of the greenhouse environment would be beneficial to the plant.

A motion, to spend up to \$120 on a cactus for the greenhouse, providing the sourcing was ethical and the greenhouse committee approved, was passed with 10 yeas, 4 nays, and 4 abstentions.

**Workday tasks** today include working on the greenhouse, working on the mulch pile, deadheading plants, and collecting seeds.

**Next meeting date:** Traci proposed that we move our next meeting up a week, to November 11, 1 p.m., with a rain date the following day. The idea is to hope for warmer weather with an earlier date in case we must move to a rain date. No one objected.

**Announcement** (Jeff): Jeff has been invited to lead a workshop on October 21 about how to build cold frames. He will provide details of time and place on the listserv.

The meeting was adjourned at about 1:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Palms, Secretary