

**PHCF May 5, 2018 General Membership Meeting**

**Attendees**

- Rosemarie Ma
  - Gwendolyn Bo
  - J.P. Pa
  - Selina Ru
  - Rosemary Pa
  - Catherine Or
  - Jeff Se
  - Lee Sc
  - Joey De
  - Brian Th
  - Jessica St
  - Erica Bl
  - Ruth Ma
  - Val Do
  - William La
  - Eva Wa
  - Martha El
  - Virginia We
  - Averill Mo
  - Louis Br
  - Nathalie D
  - Johanna B
  - Chelsea Th
  - Malini Me
  - Neeta Me
  - Mellisa Bo
  - Greg Ma
  - Anna Ha
  - Brooke Be
  - Luke Ro
  - Tilli St
  - Traci N
  - Sara Fr
  - Isabel del Ro
  - Vanessa Ch
- Chelsea Th
  - Vanessa Mo
  - Eman R
  - Meghan Mc

**Late Attendees**

- Kayla Sc (1:34)

**Prospective Members**

- Elise Fe
- Raquel Ca
- Hallie Ma
- Judith Sa

**Meeting start time 1:07**

Traci N. Starts the meeting and welcomes everyone.

Approve meeting minutes from April. Catherine moves, Anna seconds.

**Meeting minutes approved.**

**Officer Reports****Service hours:**

Tilli and Anna- reported that there was 70% of open hours completed last month. They reminded everyone that there is a sign-up calendar in the case at the front of the garden and that all members must do 60% of their service hours in open hours.

Anna explained that sign up for open hours is on the calendar and there is a sign in sheet for other service hours. There is a service hours sign in sheet on a clipboard in the case at the front as well to be used for service hours other than open hours, i.e. workday hours. Everyone is to sign in on that sheet. Catherine clarified that the hours have to be approved by coordinator. Anna explained that a coordinator uses clipboard and has 'team' sign in for the work being completed. A discussion ensued about work that individuals do i.e. shoveling, garlic spray, etc. It was decided that previous methods of reporting service hours were emailed to service hours coordinators. Tilli offered that members could either sign in on the board or email service hours coordinators in order to receive credit for their work. Anna noted that having a sign in sheet offers a hard copy of service hours completed. It was determined that seed starting workday should be documented. It was suggested by Virginia and others that the calendar and work hours sheets should be on different colored documents.

**Compost:**

The compost team reported that they are working on rat abatement and that they need help to clear up the compost area in order to make it less hospitable to rats. They further reported that their annual output is roughly 4000 lbs of compost.

If anyone would like to help with compost they are to email the compost team.

**Communication:**

The communication coordinators had no new news to report. It was noted that new members will receive an email invite to join the list serve and that this email can sometimes be redirected to spam especially when using gmail. There will be a reminder email sent to get members to check their spam for listserv email.

**Boxes:**

Box coordinators reported that the May 1st till by date has been met by current box holders! It was reported that we have many members sharing their boxes this season which allows many of the box waitlist members actually gardening this season.

Anna reminded new box holders that contracts for box holders must be signed and handed in. It was further clarified that box holders are responsible for 20 service hours and that box waitlist members are responsible for 10 service hours.

### **Master Gardener:**

Catherine announced that the Chip delivery is set for the 11th of May. Come and spread out chips.

Virginia reported that this was the month for rats! The Department of Health will be returning next week and they will inform the garden of what we need to do to help with rat abatement. This is a follow up visit as the garden was previously cited. The brush pile and the stage area were noted as areas that are hospitable to rats. The work day will include bagging up the brush pile.

It was noted that we will need to buy more gravel as the rats have worked their way through the composting area. It was noted that we have to fix these areas in order to remain in good standing with the DOH.

Joey noted that the DOH made several suggestions following a complaint against the garden and that they will need to see progress in the garden's efforts to follow through with suggestions. These include; compost making improvements, concerns with leaf bin and back of garden storage (behind the shed) being addressed, and the stage area need addressing. Lee suggested hanging leaves in order to keep them off of the ground. We can report back on our project after the workday today.

### **Discussion:**

Joanne expressed that we need a multi-step approach in order to address the big picture and long term solutions. She asked, Do we need to hire a professional for rat traps? She indicated that BANG has access to funds and will pay a percentage of the cost of hiring someone. She indicated that up to 30% of what we are given however, we need to decide soon.

Joey suggested that we wait for GreenThumb who offered to use their exterminator for free. Joanne noted that she has some doubt that Green Thumb would do more than what we are already doing.

Virginia noted that GreenThumb will drop off bait stations on May 16<sup>th</sup> and they could put out snap traps and other options we don't know explicitly what they can do.

Catherine agreed that this is a maintenance issue.

Martha proposed that we have a rat abatement point person who could manage the recommendations.

Greg volunteered to take this role.

Jeff proposed that we take all the garbage and rubble out of the garden by renting a dumpster. He suggested that GreenThumb will give us a dumpster or we should simply rent one ourselves at a cost of a few hundred dollars.

Traci N noted that private exterminators mentioned the holes in the brick wall. She proposed that we use the brick pile.

Lee offered that a Rat Abatement Committee should be empowered to move forward.

Catherine noted that she found a tick in the garden and that she thinks it was a dog tick.

Ruth offered that instead of sticking bricks in holes she proposed that we fill holes in with cement.

Greg asked if we can we get a dumpster from GreenThumb.

Joey stated that Eric from GreenThumb told him to let them know if we needed a dumpster. He further noted that everything needs to be in black plastic bags so we need to clarify and organize what we're purging and whether we are going to get a dumpster or simply put out bulk trash.

Joanne suggested that we have a formally propose to empower a group to take proposed suggestions and fix the rat problem.

It was determined that the rat abatement committee should be formed. Volunteers for the Committee include Greg, Virginia, Joey, + board + Will with brush pile.

Martha noted that the committee can meet and go over notes and report progress.

Johana made a motion to authorize rat abatement committee to spend up to \$1000 for rat problem once approved by board. Brian seconds. It's unanimously approved.

**BANG:**

Joanne shared 2 items; 1) the partnership agreement was sent out in email. This is an official step to re-sign the agreement with BANG similar to the process in 2013. Virginia made a motion to sign, it was seconded. Voted: passed unanimously.

2) Cumbo funds: BANG has access to funds. It was suggested that we could use \$1000 toward rat abatement- paying services, \$750 toward memorial and honorific plaza, and \$250 greenhouse fan or vent.

Louise suggested that it be put in as line item in committee budget for Cumbo to approve funds. There are additional funds for solar for all of BANG as well as fencing. It was proposed that Louise and Joanne be empowered to make decisions with money by approval from board.

Louise also announced that there is an initiative to have gardens help the former Phoenix House on Prospect Place with tending their front gardens. They would like a volunteer to take charge and help with watering and seasonal upkeep. She noted that we can do this under BANG or we can spearhead this as a garden.

Virginia suggested that the plants we did not sell at the plant sale could be donated.

Louise asked the members if anyone wants to help that they could Email [board@phcfarm.com](mailto:board@phcfarm.com) and Louise or Joanne will reply.

### **Treasurer**

Martha noted that she is still in need of a co-treasurer.

Prospective members, there will be an Orientation after the meeting where they will fill out membership form and submit dues (\$25 suggested) and then get a key!

Bank balance \$4911.64 petty cash 371.57

Spent on soil and manure for \$385

\$371 in plant sale expense

\$1014 in income for the first weekend of plant sale!!!

52 people paid dues.

\$1008 received in dues

44 people on roster have not yet paid dues.

### **Coordinator:**

We are losing two members of garden; Jeff S and Nathalie D are moving.

Ruth will be in charge of greenhouse and if you would like to participate in the greenhouse activities, get on the listserve for greenhouse at [greenhouse@phcfarm.com](mailto:greenhouse@phcfarm.com)

Zach will be secretary and he is looking for a co-secretary!

Martha needs a co-treasurer. Get 50% off hours, still have to do open hours.

Mosaic project will be tabled till next meeting.

### **Any other announcements**

Vanessa announced that she is working on a project involving weeds that are medicinal plants-creating medicine garden around the garden. Weeds such as Mugwort, violet, etc. She will send out list of plants and pictures and where to bring them.

Rosemarie noted that there are two shifts tomorrow open for plant sale service hours.

Traci on behalf of Cecilia the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary events will be held each month this season. This month we will host an art in the garden event. Anyone interested in posting work on May 26<sup>th</sup> can email Cecilia to organize.

**Honorifics and memorials:**

Ella passed away. Want to make memorial plaque for Ella and rename plaza to Norwood plaza. Research on the price of a memorial bench was \$300+ and plaques were in the \$100 range. It was determined that Zach would share his research via email again.

Johanna addressed guideline amendments and adjustments. She explained that we had changed the by-laws and referenced two external guideline documents: projects and meeting guidelines.

These new versions will help us to keep people aware on how things work in garden. The main change defines and clarifies what a project is: price, changes to garden and marshalling forces in garden to get things done. Bring project idea to meeting, then propose it by listserv two weeks before and bring to meeting.

The second change is to meeting guidelines for clarity and efficiency. When clarification needs to happen it is a point of order to address a question. These guidelines will prevent back and forth discussion while still maintaining the importance of everyone having a voice. It is up to person running meeting to let everyone speak.

Johanna presented the guidelines to the membership and made a motion to adopt these guidelines documents. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Kayla and Anna. Moved to vote: unanimous pass.

The last item was we did not address the members section and board sections. The proposal to allow household memberships is not in bylaws. We put forth household memberships and asked if this is an idea the garden would look favorably upon? The benefits and purpose of the household memberships are if a household wants to participate in garden activities, the household membership will ensure that all members of the household are held to rules of garden. The benefit is that duties, service hours, work hours can be shared by household members.

The Board changes proposal is to change the board from board to steering committee. There would then be an Administrative Board (to deal with city, management and address complaints, clarify garden operations etc.)

Vote to look favorably upon membership change: Catherine moves to take a vote.

All in favor that: 10

Who is opposed to committee looking at this matter: 8

Abstain: 7

Vote to look favorably at steering committee: 20

Opposed to review: 3

Abstain: 3

A final reminder was made to pay dues. The orientation will take place following the meeting. Work day activities to follow the meeting include; build lumber rack, clean-up areas of the garden, and rat abatement.

**Adjourn 2:35pm**