

PHCF August 11, 2018 General Membership Meeting

Attendees

- Anna Ha
- Brian Th
- Cecelia Sh
- Jennie Sp
- Jennifer Ri
- Jessica St
- Johanna Ba
- Kayla Sc
- Luke Ro
- Otilia St
- Philip An
- Rachel In
- Rosemarie Ma
- Rosemary Pa
- Traci No
- Virginia We
- Dolores Br

Late Attendees

Prospective Members

- Steven S__

Traci called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m.

The July 2018 meeting minutes were approved, with 3 abstentions.

Rosemary had a question about the status of volunteers who help with officer duties, but who were not elected or ratified by the membership, as for example our third co-coordinator or new co-treasurer. Should they be ratified? Do they participate and/or vote at governing board meetings? Traci suggested we call them officers-in-training. Rosemarie noted complexities involved: As “co-treasurer” she is now a signatory on bank business. Johanna thought this issue should be clarified in the by-laws and will look into doing so.

Officer Reports

Co-coordinators: Traci reported

- Two new members went through orientation and then helped install a wheelbarrow storage rack on the rear fencepost at the July workday.
- If a boxholder has surplus produce to donate, there will be a basket on the picnic table to hold it.

Open Hours and Service Hours: Otilia reported

The tallies are generally up to date on the website, if members want to check their status. We covered 83% of our open hours in July, the percentage down from June due to frequent rainy days.

Communications: Luke reported that there is nothing to report

Compost: Rachel reported

- Good news: The Open Gardens Day event went well and bags of compost were given to visitors
- Not so good news: We have run out of browns, so compost contributions are suspended for the time being.

Luke will update the website and Facebook page with this announcement. Traci will put in an announcement for the Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council newsletter. Rachel will put up a sign suggesting alternative sites for compost contributions.

Members had suggestions for finding browns donations, including: member Ruth's connection; Teddy at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden; the Park Slope Food Co-op.

Boxes: Anna reported

- If boxholders need help maintaining their boxes, watering, or harvesting, ask for it on the listserv rather than through Anna. And do ask: she is getting notices from members that some boxes seem to be suffering from neglect.
- There are lists in the shed on a clipboard over the door for information you may need: a map of boxes with boxholders' names; a list of anticipated changes in boxholders – e.g., to move, to share, to lend, etc.; and the box waitlist

Master Gardeners:

Virginia reported

- Gravel for rat abatement, garbage bags, and some sisal twine were purchased.
- Warned that the destructive Asian Longhorn beetle is back.

Traci reported

- Weeds are growing where the stage was. They must be eliminated at today's work day.
- A book, "Nature in the Neighborhood," was donated and will be kept in the library in the shed. Children and adults will find it informative.

Treasurer: Rosemarie reported

We have a bank balance of \$4,416 and petty cash amount of \$96.24. These figures do not include Virginia's recent purchases of gravel, bags, and twine.

BANG: No report.

Rat Committee Report: Traci and Virginia reported

- As per the July meeting motion, Donny of Alleycat (the pest control business), through its contract with BANG, will be buying 30 bait boxes and has offered to re-bait them for free. The bait, called Contrac Blox Rodent Control Rodenticide, an anticoagulant, is supposed

to be non-toxic to other animals (such as birds or cats) as a secondary kill. Members are asked to verify this supposition with their veterinarians.

- New rat holes have been discovered and will be flagged with easy-to-see markers/flags.

Discussion of other possible non-toxic methods ensued, such as snap traps or chemicals. There was general consensus not to use traps that catch rats live.

Johanna moved, "That we accept Alleycat's offer to bait our traps gratis, provided the bait does not harm as secondary kill." Seconded. The motion **passed** with 13 ayes, 1 nay, and 2 abstentions.

Virginia noted that we should compliment ourselves on being pro-active in confronting the rat problem. We are doing more than most community gardens are, and we are in touch with the city on our progress.

By-Laws Committee report: Johanna reported

There will be a vote at the September meeting regarding the small by-law proposal to change requirements of late-in-the-season garden joiners as to how many meetings they are required to attend. The relevant by-law, with the proposed change in bold font, is:

"All Private Box Members shall be required to attend no fewer than 3 garden meetings per Garden Year. General Members shall be required to attend no fewer than 1 garden meeting per Garden Year, excluding the the initial meeting required to become a member, as outlined in Article II, Section 3. **(NB: This requirement will be waived for members who join the garden at the October or November meetings.)** All members must attend 50% of scheduled meeting time in order to be counted as having attended."

General Announcements:

- Traci said that the Open Garden Day event was very successful, with 33 guests.
- Members discussed additional opportunities for informal socializing. Traci proposed another barbeque event. Cecelia offered to send out a survey to determine the best date, and whether to combine with a musicians' upcoming event (musician volunteers welcome; Brian and friends and two folk singers are already committed for September 1).
- Jennie reminded us of a hearing about the proposed towers that would cast a shadow on the Bears Garden. The hearing is August 14, 9:30 am, at City Hall.
- Jennifer asked about whether the soil in the Kids' Dig box can be changed regularly. There was general agreement, Virginia moved, "That the Kids' Dig box become a stewarded area with at least 3 soil changes per season." Seconded. The motion **passed** with one abstention. Jennifer agreed to be the steward in the 2019 season.
- Traci thanked JP for brightening the "Open Garden" wooden sign with new paint.
- Traci congratulated former co-coordinator Michelle on her pregnancy.

The next membership meeting is scheduled for September 9 at 11 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Palms, secretary pro tem.