

PHCF September 9, 2018 General Membership Meeting

Attendees

- Alex Br
- Catherine Or
- Din Cl
- Eva Wa
- Jennifer Ri
- Johanna Ba
- Joseph De
- Lee Sc
- Martha El
- Rosemarie Ma
- Rosemary Pa
- Ruth Ma
- Traci No
- Valentine Do
- Virginia We
- Will La
- J.P. Pa
- Judith Sa
- Vanessa Mo
- Sheila Bo.

Late Attendees

Prospective Members

- Sonia Mu

Virginia presided at the meeting, beginning at 11:13 a.m.

The **August minutes** were approved as submitted, with 4 abstentions.

Coordinator Traci announced the GreenThumb Harvest Fair coming up on September 15, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m., at the Bears Garden on Pacific St. Members are encouraged to participate. The Bears Garden is also asking for cleanup help today, and invite new members

Treasury report (Martha): We have \$3881.90 in the bank and \$259.04 in petty cash. Our expenses since last month include about \$82 for rat bait, \$211.52 for bait boxes, and \$43.75 for additional new keys.

Service and Open Hours report (Otilia via Virginia): We covered 88% of open hours in August. Most of the hours not covered happened on weekends when most visitors like to stop by. August updates are not posted on the website yet.

Compost report (Lee):

- We are at capacity with finished compost. Please use it liberally. It was suggested that our signage should be clearer so we know which compost is ready, etc.
- The Brooklyn Botanic Garden says its shredder broke and won't be replaced, so that service is no longer available for shredding our leaves. It was suggested that we could fundraise for a new shredder, apply for a grant, or even buy one for the BBG; but Lee should ask BBG first if they want to continue that service.

Communications report (Will): Nothing new to report.

Boxes report (Anna's email): Box holders should be sure that their plants are not obstructing paths.

Master Gardeners (Catherine):

- For next year, keep in mind when we plant how vines can get overgrown, and plan ahead how to manage them.
- For this autumn's cleanup, we will have a lot of plants to dispose of, and we don't have a brush pile. So chop up vegetable matter in SMALL pieces for composting. But DO NOT compost tomato vines, weed seeds, and especially morning glory seeds -- they should all go into trash.
- The patio stones at the garden entrance are trip hazards and need to be re-leveled. Two estimates were obtained. The lesser estimate, \$1000, was given by the original installer, Buscarelli, who was recommended by Catherine and Virginia. A motion was passed unanimously to hire Buscarelli and to ask for reimbursement from BANG, if possible.

BANG report: Our representatives were absent; Virginia will ask them to email us a report.

Rat abatement (Virginia):

- The team is diligent but temporarily stalled by weather. If we see holes, mark them by a red flag.
- Discussion of our choice of rat bait was re-opened. Two veterinarians told us that the type of bait deemed most effective and provisionally adopted at the August meeting would not indirectly ("secondarily") kill other animals. This judgment, however, is challenged. Traci offered the experience at the St. Marks garden where they are catching many rats with plastic snap traps. However, use of these traps requires a volunteer to daily empty and re-bait traps, and requires safeguarding children from getting near them. Martha, from our rat team, offered a compromise action: Try first using the safer bait, Agrid-D, and enhancing its flavor. If this experiment fails, then reconsider the bait that might harm other animals. This compromise suggestion was agreed upon by consensus.

Plaques (Traci): The honorific for Frances will be a 4"x8" sign mounted on stone. The memorial football-shaped leaf for Ella will be affixed to a new bench.

By-law change (Johanna): As duly announced and discussed ahead of time, this by-law change was passed 19-0-1 (the change being in bold font):

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.

Johanna and her ad hoc committee were thanked for their diligent study of the by-laws and rules over the past year.

Announcements (Traci):

- The Music in the Garden event on September 1 was a great success. Thanks to Cecelia for organizing it and the musicians for their performances.
- We will organize a voter registration drive in time for the November elections.
- Traci and Eva will present a demonstration on fiber and textile spinning, date TBA.

Free Sale event (Martha): Pending governing board approval, there will be a giveaway event on the sidewalk in front of the garden on September 23. A motion was passed to approve this event.

Our next general meeting will be October 13, 1:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Palms, secretary pro tem.