

PHCF October 13, 2018 General Membership Meeting

Attendees

- Alex Br
- Cecelia Sh
- Greg Ma
- Jennifer Ri
- Joanne Di
- Luke Ro
- Otilia St
- Philip An
- Rachel In
- Rosemarie Ma
- Traci No
- Virginia We
- Zachary Du
- April Mc
- Thomas Bl

Late Attendees

Prospective Members

- Michael Ir
- Kelsey Go
- Sophia Lu

Traci presided at the meeting, beginning at 1:05 pm.

The **September minutes** were approved as submitted.

Coordinator Traci announced that Casey moved to Greenpoint and has resigned as Co-Box Coordinator.

Treasury report (Rose): We have \$2650 in the bank and \$258 in petty cash. Our expenses since last month include: \$1000 to repair bluestone at the front of the garden, \$103 for a weed wacker to shred leaves, and about \$95 in rate abatement (Agrid D and rat resistant Mintx bags).

Service and Open Hours report (Tilli): We covered 79% of open hours in September. Most of the hours not covered happened on weekends when most visitors like to stop by. Open hours are up to date on the website but service hours are not. Traci added that members joining in October will need to complete two open hours.

Compost report (Rachel):

- The NYC Department of Sanitation contacted the compost team to ask PHCF to become an “official” DSNY food scrap drop-off site. We would be added to their site map and would likely result in a 5% increase in compost drop-offs, based on other gardens’ experiences. Rachel stated that our processes and hours would remain the same; and that if the new drop-offs became overwhelming we could ask the NYDS to remove us

from their list. The garden membership will vote on whether to approve the DSNY's request at the November meeting.

- We have lots of finished compost, please use and be sure to close the muncher door if you take from the muncher. Take from the top as much as you can to aid in rat abatement. (It's OK if people take from the bottom, but not when the muncher is very full because a lot of compost will likely fall out and make closing the door difficult.)
- We purchased a weed wacker to shred leaves. This will be a compost team task and does not need to be done during open hours; in fact, please refrain from doing so without speaking to Rachel or Lee.
- We are looking into the best way to rat proof the leave bin - will update at a future meeting.

Communications report (Luke): We are exploring moving from Yahoo groups to another host; this is complicated by the need to maintain everything from the Yahoo group and learning curve of using a new system. Will continue to update the garden as decisions are made.

Boxes report: No update.

Master Gardeners:

Traci:

- Pruning: There was a request to discuss pruning the pine trees in the meeting area and the dogwood in the back. The pine trees will be pruned in December so that the branches can be used decoratively and will be trussed in the meantime.
- Water tanks: Please use the hose to drain into empty orange barrels. They are nearly overflowing.
- The glass rack collapsed and we need to rebuild it.
- We may also build a cold frame storage rack.
- Jennifer brought up building a cover for the kid's dig box - we can prepare that now and build it in the spring. Cats are currently using it as a litter box which is not good.

Virginia

- Next month we will have a roundtable master gardener update on the season and plans for next year.

BANG report (Joanne): Our last seasonal meeting was in September, but we will have a planning meeting for next season in November. This year was a transition year with a lot of new people on the leadership board, we are excited for next year, to build on what we learned this year. A lot of the gardens had rat issues. Please like and use the BANG Facebook page, and visit the website. Our first 2019 meeting will be in March.

Rat abatement (Greg):

- The rat team and garden did as much as it could with removing shelter and food (especially compost) and "hired" Alleycat. At least 10 dead rats have been discovered since AlleyCat came to the garden with Jon Crow. Now we are placing balled newspaper in the burrow entrances - if it moves the rats there are still alive, if it doesn't they are

probably dead inside. AlleyCat will come back about once a month to assess and assist. Greg will keep communications active and open with AlleyCat.

- Virginia added that there are still neighborhood issues - talk to your neighbors if you see them putting out trash incorrectly or other aggravating factors.

20th Anniversary Events (Traci):

- The Spinning in the Garden event was enjoyed by those who attended, especially Frank and Joey.
- The voter registration drive resulted in 17 registrations.
- On October 14th there will be a poetry reading in the garden at 4:30 pm.
- The Pumpkin Smash Bake Potato Bash will be November 3rd at Noon to 4:00 pm.
- An idea about Halloween decorating was proposed but not resolved.

Our next general meeting will be November 10, 1:00 pm (rain date = November 11).

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Zach Dugan, secretary.