

Prospect Heights Community Farm

2022

Saturday, May 14 10am - 11 am

Martha presiding in person

Start 10:0

Attendees

Members:

Asli E
Brian T
Catherine O
Cecelia S
Claire L
Din C
Eman R
Esther S
Greg M
JP P
Jeremy V (?)
Joseph D
Josh R
Judith S

Keen G
Martha E
Melissa BR
Neda J
Pamela T
Patricia L
Rosemary P
Sarah M
Sofia vL
Traci N
Virginia W
Andrew O
Miranda H
Burcu S

Prospective members:

Alison W
Erin A
Emerie S
Lauren A
Carlos G
Kara G
Kim W
Luke S
Norma D
Sarah P
Natalie G
Omega X

I. Greetings and welcome, reminder of plant sale

II. Officer Reports

Treasurer

a. Treasurer report submitted by Rose, absent

- i. Total all accounts: \$6513.36
 1. Checking balance: \$4,159.58
 2. Paypal balance: \$2131.78
 3. Petty Cash: \$222.00* approx as I am not in NY to count.
 4. Earmarked Money: \$1400 total
- ii. Memorial stone and engraved leaves: \$400.00
- iii. NYC Green Relief & Response Fund Grant: \$1000.00 (in process of being spent)

Service Hours report submitted by Zach, absent

- i. Martha: Open Hours and Work Hours are updated on the membership status spreadsheet through May 13.
- ii. Please be proactive about recording hours

- iii. Reminder for new members: ten hours of service are required per season and six must be opening the garden to the public
- iv. Service Hours are required for all/most members. Work Hours + Open Hours = Service
- v. 60% of total Service Hours must be Open Hours, remaining 40% can be either Work Hours or Open Hours
- vi. Sign up for Open Hours online. Sign-ups are getting better! Thank you!
 - 1. When you sign up, be sure that only one person is entered for one slot. If you want to sign up for a friend/partner then enter yourself, then enter them separately.
 - 2. As other work opportunities, for example prepping for the plant sale and work days.
 - 3. Please include last name, or at least your last initial when Signing up, it helps the data entry process!
 - 4. Box holders are required to do twenty hours of service and board members half the time.
 - 5. Reminder to pay dues, QR code, \$5 - 25

Master Gardeners (Virginia)

Free soil has been delivered by Justin from Arborpolitan
He was working on a job and it's lead free
Please share with neighbors
Compost coming at end of May

Communications

Cecelia: anyone not on the listserv should email Cece
New members, please send Cece details
A QR code is available with a google sheet and contact information
Also includes whether or not you want to be on the box waitlist.
Important: Accept the invite to join listserv and double check in spam.

Boxes (Din)

All boxes have been assigned. Box holders must till their boxes by May 1st.

Master Gardeners (cont'd): the Loquat Tree

Virginia: there's a potted tree when we voted not to have trees.(nr old apple tree)
Is that going to move?

Martha: There's a tree...how did it get there?

Traci: It's been outside for the past seven years since Jeff left it.

Group chimes in about selling at plant sale.

Traci: Rawaan does not want to steward and Noah decided he would. We should ask Noah first

Joey: we're not supposed to plant trees near boxes

Traci: clarifies no planting trees in boxes

Compost

Pamela: looking for new members to join the committee.

Remember to not put in whole fruit and vegetables.

We received 4000 pounds of scraps this year.

Brian: easy to signup.com same as open hours. If not able to work on Sunday, its often possible to negotiate a Saturday shift with other members.

Important...bins need to be aerated over the weekend at some point.

[Shows examples of stickers and labels.]

Tip of the week: when you get home from the grocery store, take the stickers off.

They never break down ie: rubber bands, nylon tea bags, etc.

BANG Land Trust

- Judy: The next BANG board meeting is June 5th, its on the calendar. In person at 615 Green garden 6th Ave, everyone is invited. If you are interested in joining the BANG Land Trust Google group, contact Judy. You will receive updates from member gardens and general community garden info.
- BANG has an official treasury committee, Rose is now on that committee with treasurers from other gardens. There's also an infrastructure committee (Catherine official member, Traci drafted as unofficial co-member). Hope that with new committees, BANG will be more organized and helpful to individual gardens.
- To answer Traci's question about Anna Caroline, Matt from Pacific Bears is now the treasurer. Pollyanna is on the task of updating garden descriptions on the web.
- Catherine: question for Operations Committee: has there been any activity other than several introductory emails, and there has not. (Judy describes how infrastructure includes sidewalk, gates, water, pruning of trees that extend over the gate to a neighbor. BANG holds the deed to our property and is liable to issues related to property ownership. Describes origin of land trust. Others

provided brief history including alliance with Trust for Public Land, and BQLT (Brooklyn Queens Land Trust).

Martha: asks for new members to raise their hand, if willing. The land trust is special because we're independent from the Parks Dept.

Question: the difference between BANG and BQLT?

When Mayor Giuliani tried to sell off all the gardens Trust for Public Land stepped in and then turned saved gardens over to BQLT & BANG to be open space in perpetuity.

V. Continuing & New Business

Oral History

Sofia explains Rachel Cole's Oral History Project on Climate Change.

TBD: Rachel will share archives of member recordings.

Members were polled about which sign design was preferred.

Sign is 2 x 2 feet, & installed through December.

We discussed placement on the fence between the two beds so it's blocking the view of the path rather than parts of the garden.

Motion made by Joey to put the sign in the described place.

Seconded by Keen and Catherine.

Martha describes the process and how abstaining from voting is a "no" vote. 21 voted in favor, 1 opposed, none abstained. Passes

Little Free Pantry

Judy gives background...last meeting's vote to participate with Berkeley Carroll School

Describes the project and placement:

1. Inside the fence (which would not be accessible to the public. Judy checked out Little Free Library at President Street Garden and found it awkward to access. Food would be even more difficult.) Not user friendly.
2. Outside the gate. There are a number of libraries on the sidewalk however legality is unclear. She researched the legality with no luck and contacted Council Member Crystal Hudson's office. In touch by email with Andrew Wright to get a better sense of restrictions on where we can place. No answer yet.
3. Placing it inside garden, perhaps in the plaza so people don't have to go deep into the garden for access. Dimensions: 15 x 15 x 18.

Discussion:

- Melissa: one possibility would be combining it with Victory Garden. Fewer worries about reaching through and allows participants to combine fresh food.

- Martha asks for show of hands who want to speak, limits discussions to five minutes with focus on placement
- JP asks whether or not it has been on a fence.
- Placement generally described as installed on poles with poured concrete
- Catherine clarifies that we will receive a box, whether or not students install and load items. If on a post, stability is important; hard to decide if we don't know legality.
- Virginia, concerned about locating too close to neighbor Marjorie's property and becoming a nuisance and/or opening her gate.
- Traci, placement is difficult for being neighborly.
- Martha reminds the group of previous vote.
- Keen and Traci, no way we want it inside
- Keen: they have to figure out the legality, then install where we want it
- Discussion ensues re: size, placement, wheels, previous vote for approval, legality and whether or not the students would help stock and maintain.
- Andrew suggests an advisory vote or table until legality is established
- Unofficial vote, show of hands
- Eman, as someone who has struggled financially in the past, I don't want to ask someone for help.
- Outside vs inside hands counted. 21 in favor, Outside is the majority advisory vote.
- Keen, from experience, the pantry extends too far. Close to what's legal.
- JP suggests tree pit

Moving blackberries

JP: move them anytime, UMass is testing soil. If feasible, move in the fall

Penelope: suggests they are hardy enough to survive an earlier planting

Martha: suggests JP and Penelope coordinate moving

Fence & Gate Planters

Martha: Planters can't just sit there.

Traci: We could vote on whether or not they should be plant sale or stewarded space.

Vote: Plant Sale 18 for planters in plant sale

Meditations

Martha: Instructor from Vajradhara would teach

Discussion of \$10 suggested donation more info to come

Describes Prospect Park meditation as example

PHCF Previous meditation theme: “we have control over what we plant, not what we sow”

Info at the garden on “how to join” signage - TBD

VI. Announcements

Next meeting Sunday, June 12 · 1:00 – 2:00pm

Martha: Idea for a reading at the garden a passage about Native Son about rats

Requests help for coordinating Open Garden Day 6/4 & 6/5, Cece volunteers to help

Martha suggests open garden day slack group

Need for a page of QR codes: how to join, donate, don't drop your scraps here codes

Workday Monday to move delivered soil from the curb and lumber Discusses idea of dirt pile

Catherine: noted it's a good idea to have a heavy dirt pile on the roots of plants

Traci: New Member Orientations

VII. Adjournment

meeting ended at 11:04

Minutes aggregated by Eman, Sofia & Judy