

## PHCF August 17, 2019 General Membership Meeting (11 am - 12 pm)

### Attendees:

Total - 18 attendees

- Amanda Wi.
- Cecelia Sh.
- Din Cl.
- Greg Ma.
- Jessica St.
- Lee Sc.
- Joseph De.
- JP
- Kyle Ga.
- Rawaan Al.
- Rosemarie Ma.
- Rosemary Pa.
- Sonia Mu.
- Zach Du.
- Thomas Bl.
- Traci No.
- Vanessa Mo.
- Tim O'S.
- Colby Co.
- Sarah Mc. (new)
- James Gi. (new)

1. **Call to order & introductions:** How to join: attend one meeting (two for good standing), complete orientation, pay dues (\$5-\$25)
  - a. Introductions included a question about what your favorite thing to grow is — some interesting responses: ground cherries, yard long green beans, pomegranate tree, shishito peppers.
2. Minutes from [the last July meeting](#) approved (6 abstentions)
3. **Officer reports** (for this meeting, to allow more discussion of business, reports will be written only, please ask the relevant coordinator after the meeting or via email if you have a question about their report)
  - a. Coordinators: Zach and Traci
    - i. Community Guidelines: Be welcoming, step up/step back, ask questions
    - ii. Recent Events
      1. GreenThumb/NYC Parks' Open Garden Day: DIY Native Seed Bombs - went smoothly but poor attendance due to excessive heat and a change in GreenThumb's marketing techniques which was unknown to PHCF
      2. Two visits from the League, reported went well
  - b. Secretaries: Selina and Jennie -
    - i. Absent. Cecelia S. serving as substitute secretary.
  - c. Treasurers: Martha and Rosemarie
    - i. Balances
      1. Checking account: \$4,670.59
      2. Paypal balance: \$603.38
      3. Petty cash balance is: \$215.00
    - ii. New: In order to be eligible to be reimbursed for some expenses via city grant money, you must use the garden debit card or a garden check to get reimbursed. Receipts will also be needed for submission. Please contact treasurers for assistance making purchases whenever possible.
    - iii. **Members requested that pending charges should be reflected/clarified.**
  - d. Master Gardeners: Catherine, Traci, Virginia, and Joey
    - i. As per our Ground Rules, harvest your crops or give instructions if you are away. Use the surplus produce basket on the meeting table to share.

- ii. Members are encouraged to enter [GreenThumb's Harvest Fair competitions](#). There are many categories: Best fruit, best flowers, largest, etc.
  - iii. Textile artists and enthusiasts of the garden request the remaining milkweed be left for dye and fiber stuff (so do the late season monarchs!)
- e. Compost: Lee and Rachel
  - i. Removed us from the DSNY Public Food Scrap Drop-off Map
  - ii. Sent Aaron Lee (our NYC Compost Project liaison) some of our incoming organics data, which DSNY can use to discuss the need to expand citywide composting
  - iii. Leaf Pavilion (formerly known as the Leaf Bin) work weekend on Aug. 24 and 25; time will be announced on the listserv
  - iv. We have plenty of finished compost - please take some!
- f. Communications: Cecelia and Johanna
  - i. New updates to the PHCF Composting page! Check it out [here](#)
- g. Service Hours: Greg
  - i. In July we completed only 65% of available Open Hours
  - ii. Remember to print clearly: First Name, Last initial
  - iii. For Service Hours, sign up on the clipboard. There is one sheet for each month.
- h. Boxes: Anna
  - i. The boxes are growing like crazy! Please remember to make an effort to clear the path around your box.
- i. BANG: Joanne and Judith
  - i. Status of two BANG issues raised at last PHCF general meeting:
    - 1. Can BANG act as a fiscal umbrella for a garden outside the land trust, like Bears? The consensus at BANG was "no"
    - 2. Can President St. garden keep excess funds not used for water bill toward fixing their gate? BANG deferred the decision until it has a better sense of the impact of this on BANG's finances.
  - ii. BANG purchased projection equipment and it is due to arrive early next week, including a projector, screen, two amps with stands, and a microphone. There will be a checkout form and individual gardens will have to decide how to handle liability issues.
  - iii. Pacific St. Bear's Garen is hosting the Greenthumb Harvest Fair on Saturday, September 21

#### **4. Committee reports**

- a. Rat Pack: Greg
  - i. We're still in a much better situation than last year, but there have been occasional sightings. Please be diligent in the compost area and by not providing safe harbor or food for the vermin.
  - ii. Rats have been spotted eating apples during the day. Even if they don't fall in your box, please pick up and put apples and other fruit that has fallen in the trash.

#### **5. Unfinished business**

- a. Event Request Form update
  - i. Share potential edits, field interest for committee, no vote at this time
    - 1. Propose to have 2-3 month lead time before weddings (currently weddings can be booked only 2 weeks before the event)
    - 2. Need to have volunteers and security deposit confirmed

- b. Garden projects updates
  - i. Memorial Bench, Plaque, etc.
    - 1. Plaque is being made, \$97.98 to be paid upon completion
    - 2. Bench not yet ordered, estimated \$120-150 cost though \$600 has been previously approved.
      - a. *Joey read minutes from a previous meeting saying: "At the November 2018 meeting we voted to allocate \$600.00 to the bench alone, not including the leaf plaque(s) or memorial stone. From the minutes: Melissa moved 'that the garden pay for a memorial bench at a cost of up to \$600 built with long-lasting, environmentally sustainable wood. Kayla seconded the motion. The motion passed.' "*
    - b. **Consider getting a stone for the plaque?**
  - ii. Leaf Pavillion
    - 1. **Noah working on design with Traci to build the pavillion for compost area**
    - 2. Work continues, workday on August 24-25, time to be announced on listserv — **if you are coming, please respond to the email with info on when you're going to be there**
    - 3. Board approved up to \$300 toward spending on materials

## 6. New business

- a. Events
  - i. No new external requests
  - ii. Quick check for interest for a combined kids' social/seed bomb workshop redo in September or October (no discussion, raise of hands for interest)
    - 1. Casual, general agreement that the event was a good idea
  - iii. Din: Monthly fiber arts class proposal
    - 1. Din proposed that the class would be 2 hours long, free and open to the public during open hours to encourage folks to stay longer in the garden. There are already folks interested in teaching and/or donating materials
    - 2. **100% approved with 0 abstentions**
- b. Projects
  - i. New Shed
    - 1. Discussion on Shed via a series of questions to jumpstart potential committee work. **Not enough attendees to make a quorum to approve the idea**
    - 2. Starting discussion: do we need a new shed?
      - a. **Mixed responses: some folks say we should clean it out first**
      - b. **Drawbacks of current shed: too short (knock heads all the time), too dark to see, rusty inside, difficult to move around inside**
    - 3. Do we need a new shed? Yes?
      - a. Would it be a similar size/shape or larger/smaller?
        - i. **Floorplan size will probably be limited by the existing current concrete pad.**

- ii. **New shed should be taller though**
- b. Purchased from store or self-designed?
  - i. **Zach passed around some print outs of pre-built shed ideas from Lowe's.**
  - ii. **Would like shed with skylight or source of light**
- c. What material?
  - i. **Something that doesn't rust. Wood and plastic retain heat while metal allows for air flow**
  - ii. **Preprocessed materials like plywood contain chemical compounds...need to investigate**
- d. How to pay for it (do we raise money, spend what we have, etc?)
- e. Do we need to keep everything we are currently keeping?
  - i. **Everyone agreed that the first phase should involve cleaning out the shed.**
- f. Do we install/build ourselves or hire someone?
- g. Do any regulations affect our choice?
- h. What to do with old shed?
  - i. **Traci mentioned Noah's idea of cladding on the old shed. Noah to provide more details when present**
- i. Call for committee chair and members
  - i. **Cecelia volunteers to start the committee. Traci, Zach, Noah, JP, and Jennifer expressed interest. Cecelia to email out about Shed Committee and begin project report and research.**
  - ii. **Joey said Noah had more ideas to present when time permits.**

## 7. Announcements

- a. August Social: Summer BBQ, August 17, immediately following meeting
- b. Compost Work Day: Build new leaf bin, August 24-25, details to be announced on listserv
- c. Poetry in the Garden August 24, 5:00 - 7:00 pm
- d. September Meeting: Sunday September 8, 1:00 - 2:00 pm
- e. September Social: September 21, Noon, "GreenThumb 40th Annual Harvest Fair" (meet at Barclays Center Plaza and walk over together)
- f. BANG Monthly Meeting: at Warren -St. Mark's Garden, September 21, 1:00 - 2:00 pm, 619 Warren St.

**Notes taken by:** Cecelia S. - Acting Secretary