

BEN FRANKLIN COMMUNITY GARDEN MINUTES OF GARDEN OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: January 18, 2017

Location: OBCDC

Chair Jennifer Terry opened the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Present:

Committee members – Jennifer Terry, Mark Tapajna, Mary Ellen Stasek, Elicia Polacek, John Jenkins, Dave Kuebler, Joe Jerdonek, Laura Stahl, Lisa Young

Staff – Greg Noeth

Absent: Ken Keckler, Steve Saas

Minutes:

Dave moved to approve the minutes of the December meeting, Mark seconded. Minutes were approved.

Treasurers Report:

██████████ total. Mark moved to accept; Dave seconded. Approved.

Sub-Committee Reports

Garden Coordinator:

1) Greg reported that he discussed the issue of scheduling volunteers with OBCDC's Ramses Clements.

2) School custodian Tyrone reported that the third bay lock was found jimmed; Greg will get a new padlock for our door.

3) The tractor had a flat front tire. A hole is now plugged but not expected to last. The rim is also damaged. A tire and wheel have been ordered from Spear's. Greg noted: the tires are directional and not interchangeable; eventual replacement of the large rear tires will be costly. There was a brief discussion about the need to plan for necessary funding for future maintenance and repairs. There was a motion by Mark, seconded by Elicia for up to \$350 to cover the cost of the replacement rim and tire. Approved.

Finance Committee:

John reported on efforts to find a venue for the fundraiser, including inquiries at The Venue Bistro and Wine Bar (dealing with different personnel and different offer from last year), Brew House Bar & Grill (with concerns about the space), Hooley House Sports Pub & Grille (only available on Saturday afternoon). Elicia reported on Shooters on the Water. Jennifer reported on the Sachsenheim Hall. Also mentioned were St. Mary's Crystal Chalet, D'Agnes's Bistro, and Copper Stone Event Center. A vote was held among Venue Bistro, Hooley House, Brew House and Sachsenheim. Sachsenheim was selected.

At the Sachsenheim we will have the second floor ballroom on May 6th. Including the \$425 hall rental, \$3.25 per table for linens, \$6 per person appetizer buffet, 15% gratuity, and kegs of beer—for 200 attendees the cost is roughly \$12.19 per person. We can further negotiate particulars of the refreshments and can bring any additional food items. There will be a cash bar for liquor. We will bring our own sound system. After discussion it was decided that the ticket price will remain \$25. The Finance Committee and Mary Ellen planned to meet with the Sach's Grumpy on Jan. 20th to make arrangements.

It was suggested that we have tent cards for tables with donors listed. Greg will order tickets. Online ticketing services will be investigated. Mary Ellen and Elicia will be listed contacts on the donation letter. John will accept mailed donations. Mark can help pick up donations. Elicia will handle the "online donation" solicitations. John will secure the check for the hall deposit.

Projects Committee:

Mark reminded everyone to submit volunteers hours.

Governance Committee:

Edited Garden Rules, as recommended by the committee, were presented. Changes regarding parking, \$40 donation in lieu of volunteer hours, defining conduct concerning the orchard, ban on impermeable weed block, and prohibiting use of Sevin were noted. The issue of naming a specific amount in lieu of volunteer hours was discussed. The word "required" was amended to "expected." Elicia made a motion to accept; Dave seconded. 2017 Rules were approved.

Joe reported his findings about a limited credit card. Elicia suggested a Bluebird pre-paid debit card. It was noted once again that a procedure for using a card and tracking expenditures will be needed.

New Business:

Bees. The Italian colony has died. John indicated that the Greenspace committee will cover a replacement hive with grant money.

Parking lot construction. The school is planning to redo parking, including enlarging the front entrance. The parking lot will be closed the entire month of July from the gate by the classroom building to Spring Road. Jennifer mentioned that traffic in the alley will create a dangerous situation. She suggested adding a gate opening to the fence on the Tampa side. Elicia will get costs for a gate.

Five 2016 gardeners had been identified as abandoning their gardens: [REDACTED]. As the Chair has not learned of any extenuating circumstances, Elicia made a motion that these gardeners not be invited to return. Mark seconded. Approved. In addition, it was noted that gardens tended by OBCDC staff would be moved from main path locations.

Plot fees and sizes for 2017. It has been proposed that we offer half plots at a rate of \$25. In addition, the problem of having a shortfall of funds for the number of hours worked by the Garden Coordinator was described. Discussion revealed that it is a complicated matter that involves more than raising plot fees to cover added hours. There were concerns expressed about mechanisms and safeguards for budgeted wages, as well as issues of volunteer hours and workers' compensation. The item was tabled.

Cuyahoga County Fair dates: Aug. 7-13. GardenWalk Cleveland will not be held in Old Brooklyn.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Next meeting will be February 15, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Stasek
Secretary