

BEN FRANKLIN COMMUNITY GARDEN

MINUTES OF GARDEN OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: June 21, 2017

Location: OBCDC

Call to Order: Chair Jennifer Terry opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

In attendance:

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

Staff – Greg Noeth

Minutes:

Dave moved to approve the minutes of the May meeting and Mark seconded. Minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurers Report:

██████████ is the balance on hand. Joe moved to accept; Mark seconded. Approved.

Garden Coordinator:

Greg reported that \$345 has been taken in for sweet potatoes; \$258 was the cost; 2-3 bundles used for hunger center plots.

School construction. Greg gave an update on parking; John noted that the water was off briefly this day.

Greg verified July 4th Garden hours.

Sub-Committee Reports

Finance Committee:

Jennifer reported on honey sales plus donations for 20 hunger plots. John reported that OBCDC's Jason Powers had asked about collaborating for an ad for honey in the *OBN*. Mark noted that he had written OBCDC about the omission of the Garden fundraiser in the events listing.

Projects Committee:

Due to gardeners' positive reaction to the temporary entrance at Tampa, it is suggested that it be made permanent, using a double walk-through gate to accommodate the tractor. Elicia moved to allocate \$160. John seconded. Approved.

Compost preparations were discussed briefly.

Governance Committee:

Joe asked for clarification on procedures for use of the credit card, including who is authorized to use, who authorizes purchases. Some questioned if a prepaid card would be less complicated.

Communications:

Jennifer reported on the first Saturday coffee event and noted that the topic for July would be composting.

Lisa led discussion about arrangements and assignments for the Ice Cream Social.

Old Business:

Key Corp. volunteers came on May 24th; Gilmour group has also been coming in.

John and Mary Ellen gave the tour for the County Extension's annual survey.

New Business:

John voiced concern about the Committee's adherence to prescribed practice for nominating committee members, nominating officers, and election of officers. There was discussion about proper procedures and our *By-Laws*, OBCDC's *Code of Regulations* and *Robert's Rules*. Jennifer counseled that we should have clear, specific written procedures. There was review of the prohibition of self-nomination for office. Rosemary Mudry will oversee the election of officers at the October meeting. Because Joe is up for re-election to the Committee, Dave will be pro tem chair of the Nominating committee.

John recommended that we review our marketing procedures for acquiring plots. Several suggestions were made for promoting the Garden.

John pointed out the need to clear weeds along the alleyway. Gateway Church volunteers usually address that area and Greg is working with Gayle Cummins to harvest mulberries for the Zoo.

John also reminded the Chair that a written version of the 2016 annual report should be made available.

John reported that we were accepted as a National Wildlife Federation *Certified Wildlife Habitat*. John moved to allocate up to \$125 for a plaque. Dave seconded. The motion carried with one dissent.

Jennifer presented the plan for garden monitoring and discussed procedures. She will follow up with an email. She also reported on the status of empty plots. Mark noted that gardeners will need to be reminded to tend the paths and that Committee members need to be good examples.

Soil test results. Noteworthy items include: Garden is slightly alkaline; organic matter is low; in Anions, sulfur is lacking; potassium is low in Cations category; boron is low as a Trace Element; copper is somewhat deficient. Most deficiencies can be corrected by compost. Jennifer helped interpret the report including her research on saturation, absorption, exchange capacity. Compost and other possible remedies were briefly set forth.

Volunteer board is up and sheets are available. Members are encouraged to organize groups for projects.

Orange Village Community Garden is scheduled for a tour.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Next meeting will be July 19, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Stasek
Secretary