

# **BEN FRANKLIN COMMUNITY GARDEN MINUTES OF GARDEN OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Date:** March 15, 2017

**Location:** OBCDC

Chair Jennifer Terry opened the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

**Present:**

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

Staff – Greg Noeth

**Absent:** Elicia Polacek, Steve Sass, Lisa Young

**Minutes:**

Ken moved to approve the minutes of the February meeting, John seconded. Minutes were approved.

**Treasurers Report:**

██████████ total. Dave moved to accept; Mark seconded. Approved. John explained requirements for use of the Brooklyn Senior Center for the Kickoff meeting.

**Sub-Committee Reports**

**Garden Coordinator:**

Tickets for fundraiser to be distributed.

Steve was unable to attend the meeting but has been actively contributing suggestions about the garden, including keeping chickens and having subsidized plots for the disadvantaged. Jennifer noted that a primary consideration for new programs is having the amount of support required. It was also noted that the OBCDC executive director does not have a direct role in determining projects. A brief conversation about keeping chickens followed.

The tractor is running and RustBelt has been out. The plan for compost is three bins: green, brown and a separate one with doors for finished material.

Italian bees have been ordered, due last week of April–first week of May. So far the other hive is fine.

A blue spruce has fallen in the garden. Greg has already done a lot of sawing and will have help for the rest of the cleanup.

Councilman Brancatelli would like pictures of the Garden. John added that the Councilman talked to him about parking during the school's summer parking lot redo.

**Finance Committee:**

OBCDC would have to pay a very small additional fee to have the Garden Coordinator covered under Workers' Compensation for the entire year.

**Projects Committee:**

Mark is looking at wall hangers. He is donating 3 garden claws he purchased.

**Governance Committee:**

Credit card. Jeff Verespej must set it up with the bank as regards signatures and we need to draft a procedure.

**Communications:**

Lisa submitted a reminder to follow up on fundraiser donations and bring any to the next meeting.

**Old Business:**

Returning gardener applications were mailed. Some returns are already in.

**New Business:**

A. The Garden now has a Facebook page. Mary Ellen asked if we want a Twitter account also. Discussion about pictures for online.

B. Pedal for Prizes. We will be a destination and will donate a basket but will not pay a fee. It was thought best not to sell hot dogs but explore alternative snacks.

C. OBCDC's Ramses Clements passed along a request from Cleveland Public Library to have a representative from the Garden host a program during the library's summer reading program. Mark and Mary Ellen will look into it.

D. Greg and Jeff met with Gilmour Academy volunteers. They will start earlier this year for a more complete season. They would like to see our wish list and would like to help raise funds. There is interest in accessible raised beds: they have plans for planters that use pallets; have access to a supply; are willing to build. There was discussion of the best location (the area of the mulch pile), conditions on the asphalt, design and arrangement of the structures, soil depth, as well as need within the community and promotion. Cost would be \$22 each for 4'x4'. Discussion of grant possibilities for this and other needs, e.g., parking lot. Student Madison is making a video. It was acknowledged that we are fortunate to have these dedicated supporters. Mark made a motion for a pilot program of 5 beds not to exceed \$200. Ken seconded. Approved.

E. New gardener applications will be mailed at the beginning of April.

F. Jennifer will attend the Summer Sprout meeting 4/1.

G. Kim Repinski has volunteered to chair the Fair Sub-committee.

H. Logan Labs offers a standard soil test for \$25 that is a more detailed analysis than we have had. There was consensus to use this service with discussion about how to divide garden and where to pull samples. We will submit samples for the 3 sections when the ground softens.

Dave reported on sweet potatoes. Cost this year for the same order as last year is \$258 (2 bundles of Murasaki, rest Beauregard). John moved in favor of the purchase; Mary Ellen seconded. Approved.

Dave mentioned a class of students who want to tour later in the summer; Mary Ellen mentioned a tour for the Laurel Garden Club of Brooklyn.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Stasek  
Secretary