

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

Date: March 21, 2018

Location: OBCDC

Call to Order: Chair Jennifer Terry called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

In attendance:

Committee members – Jennifer Terry, Ken Keckler, Elicia Polacek, Mary Ellen Stasek, John Jenkins, Joe Jerdonek, Dave Kuebler, Steve Morris, Mike Rompala, Laura Stahl, Lisa Young

Staff – Greg Noeth

Minutes:

John moved to approve the March minutes with a correction to the amount allocated for sweet potatoes to \$267. Dave seconded and the minutes as corrected were approved by Committee vote.

Treasurers Report:

██████████ was the reported balance. After discussion, and due to questions about items on the report, John moved that we defer voting until the next meeting. Steve seconded. The Committee voted to table approval until a corrected report is issued.

Sub-Committee Reports

Garden Coordinator:

Greg, with Steve Morris' help, cut down the berry bushes and orchard. Five Davidson College alumni volunteered for a day of service. John donated some currant plants. Replacement bees have been received and installed with provisions to sustain until weather improves. The tractor needs a tune up.

Finance Committee:

Gilmour Academy pancake breakfast on 4/21 will raise money for the hunger center plots.

Projects Committee:

Greg asked about what to should be done with the removed 3-compartment sink. Turning it into a planter was suggested.

Governance:

No report.

Communications:

Elicia has registered the Garden for the *Remind* phone app. She explained how the communication platform works for text message notifications. We will provide information at the Kick-off meeting.

Old Business:

A. Summer Sprout meeting. Ken and Greg attended and picked up our seeds. Summer Sprout will not use BFCG as the plant pickup location after all and they will still deliver our allotment. They are now requiring attendance at a 10-week class for garden leaders but Jennifer has been grandfathered in as exempt from attending.

New Business:

A. Fundraiser. A report was distributed. Net profit was \$5,621.94, an all-time high. Jennifer asked for \$125 max to purchase thank you cards and postage to send to donors. Mary Ellen moved in favor and Lisa seconded. The Committee voted to approve.

B. Plots. Most returning gardeners have been accounted for and about half of new gardener apps have been returned. Approximately 170 plots have been sold of roughly 205. Due to an inquiry about a corn plot, the topic was discussed. Based on past experiences, the consensus was that returns would be too disappointing due to critters getting the harvest first.

C. Compost. Jennifer has talked to Jim Riley at Full Cycle Organics who is willing to bring in green material. Rust Belt Riders have also contacted us and say they are still willing to bring green but don't want to maintain the compost. Greg talked to gardener Paul Kazmierczak about getting green material directly from KeyBank now that Rust Belt is not fulfilling the agreement. Local coffee shops have reported willingness to give spent grounds.

D. Volunteer days. Emphasis will be on Tampa, fence line, plus much more. Discussion of pavers or other solutions for the Tampa gate entry area.

E. Marketing meeting is scheduled for 4/26 with Julie Brown from OBCDC. Summer events are under discussion.

F. Kick-Off meeting. Assignments were made for meeting tasks. Jennifer reported that a gardener will donate onion sets. John noted that we will have 50 saplings on site at the Garden that will be given to Old Brooklyn residents by application to OBCDC.

G. Pedal for Prizes, Saturday, May 19. The Garden is a stop and we will stamp riders' tickets. We will also donate a prize basket.

H. First Timers meeting, Saturday, May 5. Jennifer called for volunteers to assist.

I. Child-sized tools and gloves. Steve made a motion, seconded by Ken, to spend up to \$75 for children's tools. The Committee voted to approve.

We need coverage for Garden opening and closing over Memorial Day weekend and other dates. Greg will send out a calendar of dates to cover.

Steve congratulated everyone, especially Lisa, on a job well done for the fundraiser. A brief feedback session followed, noting food and logistics positives and problems.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Stasek