

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

Date: August 15, 2018

Location: Garden

Call to Order: Chair Jennifer Terry called the meeting to order at 6:33 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

Introduction and Comments: Guest Madison Wagner, Gilmour Academy, founder of M.A.D. Club. Madison presented a check for \$500 from the club's spring fundraiser. Jennifer thanked her and also noted the value and importance of student volunteer hours. On 8/1 Ch. 3 aired a feature about M.A.D. Club. Denise Dufala interviewed Madison and other students at the Garden as part of her series focusing on "kindness." (<https://on.wkyc.com/2NONzrH>)

Minutes:

Dave moved to approve the July minutes; Steve seconded. Minutes were approved by Committee vote. After discussion about posting our minutes online, John moved to post minutes with redacted data. Elicia seconded. More discussion followed. Motion carried by committee vote.

Treasurers Report:

██████████ is the reported balance. Steve moved to approve and John seconded. Committee voted to approve the report.

Sub-Committee Reports

Garden Coordinator:

1. North Royalton sent a congratulatory message for our win at the Fair. Representatives from West Park's San Diego garden (third Garden entry at the Fair) visited.
2. School started so traffic is now an issue.
3. After the Denise Dufala interview with Madison, Girl Scouts have volunteered and are weeding. Gilmour faculty is scheduled to come 9/26. Madison is also recruiting sports teams for service days.
4. Produce donation is at 1,000 lbs.
5. Jennifer filled in details re our inability to get lumber from Mark's usual supplier but he has found another source with a good price (at \$9.90/board we are still saving \$5 a board). It is a further distance and we will need to rent a vehicle. Available possibly by end of September.
6. Elicia working on spreadsheet of volunteer hours.
7. John reported that OBCDC inquired about using Garden equipment and manpower for pruning downtown Old Brooklyn trees. Mary Ellen noted that she had pointed out to staff that a financial contribution for volunteer time spent outside the Garden would be in order.

Finance Committee:

Steve noted the \$500 check from M.A.D. Mary Ellen reported submitting grant applications to Walmart Community Grant Program.

Projects Committee:

No report.

Governance:

No report. Jennifer mentioned that we will need procedures for perennial beds.

Communications:

No report.

Old Business:

A. Jennifer thanked Kim Repinski for taking the lead with our top-prize winning Community Garden entry at the county fair, with thanks also to all contributing gardeners. John added that this year's entry was "awesome"—the "best of the best" of all our entries—and that Kim deserved a great deal of credit.

B. We staffed the health and wellness table at the OB Farmers Market on 7/24.

C. The new T-shirts are available for sale and have been well-received.

New Business:

A. Thanks to Madison for attending.

B. 8/18 will be the open house. Details were discussed.

C. Operating Committee seats up for election this year: Ken, Dave, Mike. Joe will be Nominating chair. We will post a sign-up for interested gardeners.

D. Harvest picnic will be 9/8. Details discussed, including postcards/flyers.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Visitor's comments: Gardener Paul K. asked about the newly planted hydrangea trees, which will attract bees, and availability of an EpiPen (epinephrine) injector. Jennifer explained that it is only available by prescription to an individual.

Next meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2018 at the Garden.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Stasek