

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

Date: February 21, 2018

Location: OBCDC

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

Guest – Jason Powers, OBCDC

Minutes:

Dave moved to approve the minutes of the January meeting and Laura seconded. Minutes were approved by vote as submitted.

Guest Introduction:

Jennifer introduced Jason to the Committee.

Treasurers Report:

██████████ was the reported balance. Joe moved to accept; Steve seconded. The Committee voted to approve.

Sub-Committee Reports

Garden Coordinator:

All were saddened to learn that Don Shaffer is not intending to return due to his age. The MacKissic grinder/shedder needs a tune-up and pull cord repair. John moved to allocate a maximum \$125; Ken seconded. The motion carried.

Steve is ready to prune fruit trees. There was a brief discussion about retaining the orchard. John made a motion to spend \$80 for trimming saws and Steve seconded. The motion carried.

March begins berry pruning time. To fix the trellis work we need \$200 for materials including 4x4 posts. A motion was made by Steve and seconded by Ken. The motion carried.

Finance Committee:

No report.

Projects Committee:

No report except a reminder to submit any volunteer hours not yet counted.

Governance:

Joe has continued updating policy and procedure items.

Communications:

None.

New Business:

A. Marketing. Jason employed some discussion exercises to elicit members' notions of "characteristics of the Garden," "audience," "community partners," "the Garden difference." Jason will distill the submitted points and pass along to OBCDC's Julie Brown.

B. Tax law changes for charitable giving. John explained that the tax law overhaul may change one's ability to claim charitable deductions due to the higher standard deduction and resulting percent of adjusted gross income required to get a tax benefit for contributions. John recommends that we indicate that donations "*are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.*"

C. Kick off meeting. The Brooklyn Senior-Community Center is reserved for Tuesday, May 1st at 6 p.m.

D. Applications will be mailed by Saturday at the latest. We are getting waiting list submissions via our web page.

E. Volunteer opportunities. Spring cleanup weekend was set for April 21-22 or rain dates April 28-29. Greg will prepare a list of tasks. Jennifer will look at pollinator garden and other areas. John suggested finding spots for planting milkweed.

F. Fundraiser. An ad has been placed in the *Old Brooklyn News*. Also, a feature article on the Garden will be the centerfold of the March issue and we will be listed in the "News and Events" section. Mary Ellen placed an ad in the *Plain Press* for \$50. Jennifer asked for a motion to cover that cost. John moved and Steve seconded. The motion carried. Steve, Ken and Jennifer met with Grumpy. The food price has increased fifty cents to \$6.50. Jennifer and Lisa reminded all to follow up on donations and keep Lisa informed.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Stasek

Governance Committee:

Rules. The sole change clarifies that each gardener and co-gardener are required to give 5-hours of volunteer time. Steve moved and Lisa seconded the change. Rule change was approved.

Operating procedures. The required 5-year review was conducted and several minor changes proposed. Joe moved to approve and Steve seconded. All edits approved.

Fundraiser. Lisa distributed letters and the current list for potential donors. Details of the fundraiser were reported. Greg will order the tickets and handle distribution. Lisa will collect prizes.

Greenspace Committee. John and Mary Ellen reported on committee goals for 2018, as requested by the OBCDC Board, and as they pertain to the Garden and the Operating Committee. Equity: ensure that all Garden operatives understand the principles of equity and inclusion; assess the impact when making project and policy decisions; evaluate effectiveness and adapt strategies and interventions annually. Partnerships: look for opportunities to connect and share with like-minded organizations. Ohio Historical Marker: complete the application. Brief discussion followed about each goal, including promoting the Garden to various populations, accessible raised bed plots, dating the Garden.

Grants. Mary Ellen reported that the Brookpark Road Walmart had awarded us a \$1000 Community Grant for 2017. We were not successful with the Steelyards Walmart request nor the Clif Bar Foundation grant.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Next meeting will be Wednesday 2/21/18 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Stasek
Secretary