

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

Date: May 16, 2018

Location: OBCDC

Call to Order: Chair Jennifer Terry called the meeting to order at 6:35 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:

Steve moved to approve the May minutes. Laura seconded and the minutes were approved by Committee vote.

Sub-Committee Reports

Garden Coordinator:

Greg fixed the heater in shed #1 which had a bad thermocouple.

Fixed the fence which may have been damaged by a snow plow.

After losing one in the fall, another crabapple tree and part of yet another have come down so the committee may wish to consider replacement options.

With the help of M.A.D. students the last 2-3 weekends the berry patch is almost complete.

Heavy rain has also held up the process of preparing the garden. Then, when tilling was in process, the tractor's radiator and fan belt broke. The tractor is running for now with a cannabalized radiator. The condition of the water pump is also questionable Cost for radiator repair/recore is \$340. John moved to allocate \$500 to repair the tractor. Steve seconded and the committee approved by vote.

Best scenario for opening: Anticipating deep tilling during the coming weekend with a staking crew tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, the 22nd (Wednesday as backup, which is also Key volunteers' service day).

Bees are doing well.

Treasurers Report:

██████████ is the reported balance. Questions from April's report have been resolved. Steve moved to approve and Dave seconded. In discussion, John noted a delay in receiving the deposit refund from Brooklyn but it should be forthcoming. Steve reported that a check for \$600 will be coming with money raised at the M.A.D. pancake breakfast, honey sales and Zoo plot. Committee voted to approve the report.

Finance Committee:

No report.

Projects Committee:

Ken will look into pavers for Tampa gate area. Steve mentioned water spigots for far end, Tampa side. It would be a fall project; school custodian will be consulted.

Governance:

No report.

Communications:

No report.

Old Business:

- A. Spring cleanup day. Only about a dozen over two days.
- B. Kick-off meeting. 77 gardeners attending, \$114.50 profit on raffle, \$25 on cookbook sales, \$40 on shirt sales, \$40 on honey sales.
- C. First Timers meeting had 30 enthusiastic attendees.
- D. Thank you cards for donors will arrive shortly; Lisa will make labels.

New Business:

- A. Plot sales. 32 plots remain. Julie Brown will send info in OB update email.
 - B. Seed potatoes. 400 lbs. Kennebec purchased from Mt. Eaton for \$161. Will sell for \$1 per pound plus use for hunger center plots.
 - C. Compost. Jennifer has talked to Jim Riley at Full Cycle Organics who is willing to help with our composting. Discussion about tabling at Farmers' Market/Movie Night as opportunity to collect compost from residents or disburse information. Elicia noted that the Water Dept. sells compost buckets for \$5. There was a discussion about setting up a booth, volunteers to staff, other ways to solicit compost. The consensus was that we could try a night or two to see how it goes.
 - D. Event for August. Elicia has researched caterers; possibilities were discussed. It would be Aug. 18th or 25th. Suggestions were made but no resolution with time lacking.
 - E. Volunteer Lists. Jennifer has lists for various tasks.
 - F. Key Bank Neighbors Make a Difference Day May 23rd. Jennifer recruited committee volunteers to help.
 - G. Pedal for Prizes, Saturday, May 19th. Our prize basket is ready; Jennifer asked if we should include a 1/2 plot Steve moved to do so. Lisa amended the motion to a choice of full plot. Steve seconded the amendment. All voted in favor of a choice of half or full plot. Provisions for the garden stop were arranged.
 - H. Garden blessing moved to May 21st.
 - I. Summer Sprout plants are expected to be delivered around June 1st.
 - J. Jennifer purchased a new hanging scale to weigh produce for \$18.99.
 - K. The Cummins are not returning but will meet with M.A.D. re Zoo garden plot. Greg reported \$9 is cost for vegetable/marigold flats at Old Brooklyn Greenhouse. Schedule for coverage for Memorial Day weekend was settled.
- Signage for hunger center plots. Steve moved, for this season, to test a standard of 9"x18" for promotional signs recognizing sponsorships of plots. Ken seconded. Committee voted in favor.
- Laura and Mary Ellen suggested a plant sale next season using Howling Fox Heirloom Tomatoes. Laura advised including additional plants and would be willing to raise some from seeds.
- Marketing: logo. Mary Ellen and members discussed some considerations for designing logos.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Stasek