

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

Date: September 19, 2018

Location: Garden

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

Guests – Douglas Wurtz, Rocki & Debbie Ryan, Kathy Heinz

Minutes:

Steve moved to approve the August minutes; Dave seconded. Minutes were approved by Committee vote. Mary Ellen noted that redacted minutes are now posted online.

Sub-Committee Reports

Garden Coordinator:

1. 3,300 pounds so far for produce donations.
2. The Garden suffered incidents of vandalism. "Bicycle John" was spotted with produce. It was decided that the best course of action is to send a letter. Three women were also found picking from hunger center gardens. A person's paperwork and Jeep side skirts were found in the alleyway. Reported to local police upon recommendation from OBCDC's Barb Spaan. Jennifer added incidents with rain barrel and water spigots on days that school was closed due to heat.
3. Will order cover crop.
4. A gardener noted that Greg on a ladder with a chain saw was unsafe. A STIHL power pole saw would run \$619. Greg will inquire about rental.
5. Projects list includes removal of mulberries and vines and cleaning shed. Oct. 14 (closing date) and Oct. 15 will be days to clear abandoned gardens, pull and clean stakes and name boards, clear debris. Later dates for leaf raking. Gutter cleaning has a volunteer. Will put barriers to prevent dumping in wrong compost bins. Also looking to complete cutting down crab apple trees.

Finance Committee:

No report.

Projects Committee:

Waiting on wood. Will need volunteers to build perennial beds.

Governance:

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

Communications:

No report. Beverages remaining in shed are for sale.

American Heritage Girls Project Proposal

Community member Rocki Ryan explained an award project she will undertake in the Garden. It will be in the area of the pollinator garden, cleaning up plantings plus

installing a bench and bird bath. She has volunteers but would welcome others. Projected as 2-week project.

Old Business:

A. Jennifer reported on the Open House on 8/18. Judged successful, included many former gardeners.

B. Jennifer also reported on the annual Harvest Picnic and meeting. Slate of candidates re-elected.

C. Storm damage. School cleaned up some debris and will do more. Councilman Brancatelli had dead tree along fence tree removed and others trimmed.

Treasurers Report:

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

New Business:

A. Will need truck/trailer for wood transport, estimated at \$100-300. John moved to allocate up to \$300 for transport; Mary Ellen seconded. All voted in favor.

B. Page with possible rules/fees for perennial plots distributed. Discussion/elaboration followed, including: who will be eligible (initially current gardeners); Joe will compile application with rules; fee established at \$40; no additional service hours; box size changed from 4 ft. to 5 ft. wide; types of plants—height limit; limited additional hours for access on second weekend of the month from 10 am – 4 pm. Steve moved to establish the "Rules and Fees" as modified and Lisa seconded. Approved by committee vote.

C. Opportunities for volunteer hours were enumerated in Greg's report.

D. Review of check out procedures: no need to cut plants down; most important to chop sweet potato vines. Committee members will staff Garden in shifts during last days to assist with checking out. Reminder to check volunteer hours.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2018 at the OBCDC office.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Stasek