

GARDEN COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2008

1. Garden Operating Committee was formed and By-Laws were developed.
2. Garden Rules and Regulations were updated (March '08).
3. Garden Committee has held monthly meetings which has resulted in approx. 240 volunteer hours being generated.
4. Garden Committee members submitted applications and attended all required meetings of the Summer Sprout Program, which entitled BFG to
 - Free plowing and tilling
 - Free seeds
 - Free vegetable plants
 - Free compost
 - Free fruit trees (2 apple, 2 pear)
 - Free soil testing (once every 3 years)
5. Committee filled out and submitted application to Neighborhood Connection for grant money to fund various garden needs; we were awarded a \$5,000 grant. Funds were earmarked for the following endeavors:

• Partitioning of storage building (on hold)	\$2,152
• Bulletin board (completed \$797)	795
• Weed Dragons (complete \$422)	557
• Produce scale (complete \$281)	321
• Wooden carts	362
• Garden hand tools (\$36 spent)	100
• Park Benches (completed) *	714

Note: two benches were donated; grant money can be used for substituted projects or equipment.
6. The Garden Committee also financed from various fund raising activities and/or donations the following:

• Replacement wheels for garden carts	\$ 170
• Various miscellaneous items for garden maintenance: grass seed, paint, sandpaper, drill bits, lumber for name stakes, large trash bags, keys for garden locks, raffle tickets	151
• Fuel for lawn mowers and tillers	TBD
• Ice Cream Social - approx.	175
• Mailing of post cards for picnic - not to exceed	50
• Annual Harvest Picnic - not to exceed	250
• Brush-hogging and plowing - not to exceed	210
	Total \$ 1,006
7. Committee members were successful in obtaining 12 volunteers from Key Bank's Neighborhood program to assist in getting various tasks completed.
8. The Garden Committee as a whole has completed two dozen small projects in the garden. A few of them are the repair and painting of three picnic tables and benches; sanding and painting two park benches; installing a suggestion box; re-seeding grass in various areas; mounting BF Garden signage.
9. Due to the continuing efforts of Debbie Alexander, we now have beverages available for sale; any profits go into the Committee fund.

In addition to our continued projects and events, staking garden, fall brush-hogging and plowing, ice cream social, annual harvest picnic etc. the following proposed projects (or events) will be considered by the committee.

- Obtain an additional storage facility
- Hold a class for new gardeners in spring 2009
- Purchase a chain saw
- Purchase more comprehensive first aid kit.
- Mark parking spaces for disabled gardeners/visitors
- Create a garden compost pile
- Develop garlic plots
- Create a four foot pathway along east fence
- Prune and spray fruit trees
- Survey and identify trees in the garden (has anyone noticed our Paperbark Maple?)
- Remove certain dead trees and weed/nuisance trees.
- Obtain/purchase surveillance cameras for the garden
- Purchase a safety cabinet for propane tanks, gasoline etc.

To do all of this will require money, volunteer hours and a dedication to Ben Franklin Garden.

Two important things you can do to help us win “grant money” are

1. Provide/donate produce from your garden for delivery by us to hunger centers.
2. Volunteer and put in the work hours to accomplish these tasks. (Even a couple of hours per each gardener would go a long way to accomplish our goals.)

J.A.J.

9/6/08