

# Benjamin Franklin Community Garden

A program of Old Brooklyn Community Development Corp.  
2339 Broadview Rd.; Cleveland, OH 44109

## Operating Committee 2011 Annual Report

### I. GARDEN MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

The Garden Committee has:

- A. Purchased a rear tine tiller, wheelbarrow, portable air compressor, sledge hammers and hand pruners with funds received from a Neighborhood Connections grant.
- B. Purchased 1000 seed packets to distribute to gardeners to supplement the free seeds and plants provided by Summer Sprout.
- C. Organized the season kick-off meeting, Ice Cream Social and Harvest Picnic for gardeners.
- D. Made a seamless transition to a new Garden Coordinator and compensated for the reduced budget for staff hours.
- E. Opened and closed the Garden on 22 weekends to offset the lower budget for staff hours. Thanks go to five members of the Committee who have rotated this responsibility throughout the season.
- F. In conjunction with OBCDC, contracted with a landscaper to cut grass and reduce associated expenses.
- G. Paid for all operational expenses except staff wages, which are financed by Garden plot fees.
- H. Provided gardeners with leaf humus, wood chips and horse manure
- I. Increased the number of plots from 204 to 209 by extending the tilled area.
- J. Arranged to have the gates open by 7 a.m. during the week and experimented with a late 8:30 p.m. closing time during two peak weeks in June.
- K. Purchased extremely durable locust wood name and plot stakes to replace stakes that had rotted away from years of use.
- L. Repaired two holes in the fence to make it more difficult for vandals to steal from plots or do damage.
- M. Scheduled brush mowing and plowing for late October. This service was funded by the Neighborhood Connections grant this year.
- N. Planted one Washington Hawthorne and two White Ash saplings.
- O. Purchased a plastic picnic table with funds given in memory or honor of gardeners.
- P. Organized a work party of approximately 25 volunteers from KeyBank to sand and paint picnic tables, bulletin boards, tool handles and name stakes, clean up the woods and remove invasive Norway Maple saplings and mustard weed.
- Q. Supported the creation of a market garden at Henninger and W. 24.
- R. Purchased and installed several two-way manifolds to allow two gardeners to use one water spigot at the same time and control leaks.

## **II. OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- A. Held a First-Timer's Class to familiarize this year's record number of new gardeners with garden amenities and provide advice for a successful first season. Approximately 25 Gardeners attended and evaluated the event positively.
- B. Gardener volunteers have removed eight dead trees from the woods.
- C. Won Blue Ribbon at the Cuyahoga County Fair. Judged best community garden for the fourth year in a row.
- D. Replanted some abandoned plots to provide additional donations to the hunger centers. Work is being done by the Garden Coordinator and volunteers.
- E. Delivered nearly 2000 pounds of produce to hunger centers. We continue working toward our goal of 6000 pounds, so please continue to donate your surplus.
- F. Established a composting system thanks to Garden Coordinator Carol Stadden.
- G. Working with Councilman Brancatelli to zone the Garden as an urban garden district and to introduce and pass legislation banning dogs and cats from community gardens and similar spaces where food is grown.
- H. Updated the Garden Rules & Regulations for the 2011 season as well as the waiver form and other documents for the enrollment packet.
- I. Inaugurated a policy agreement with OBCDC regarding responsibilities for day-to-day operation of the Garden.
- J. Drafted a Policy and Procedures Manual.
- K. Provide monthly articles for Old Brooklyn News.
- L. Provide content for frequent updates of the website, [www.oldbrooklyn.com/BFCG](http://www.oldbrooklyn.com/BFCG).
- M. Gathered information about the beginnings of the Garden and her experiences as a gardener from Ann Dosplaf, daughter of Karl Hopp, the teacher hired in the 1920s to establish the garden program at Benjamin Franklin School.

## **III. HOSTED OR SUPPORTED COMMUNITY EVENTS**

- A. Pedals for Prizes
- B. Cleveland Public Theatre event at Harmody Park on July 30
- C. Cuyahoga County Farm Bureau Foundation's Garden Auto Tour, September 17 (next weekend).

## **IV. FUNDRAISING**

- A. Applied for a \$5000 grant from Neighborhood Connections and received \$2000, which is earmarked for the purchase of tools and equipment and fall plowing.
- B. Applied for a Community Leadership Grant from KeyBank, received \$500.
- C. Organized a highly successful second annual fundraiser at Cleat's (March 2011)
- D. Raises funds throughout the season via 50/50 raffles and sale of water/soft drinks, hot dogs and T-shirts.

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## **Garden Committee Members, 2010-2011**

John Jenkins	Chairman, ex-officio member of all Sub-Committees
Jeff Kostura	Vice Chairman, Co-Chair of the Finance Sub-Committee, member of the Governance Sub-Committee
Kim Repinski	Treasurer, Co-Chair of the Finance Sub-Committee, member of the Governance Sub-Committee
Lisa Young	Secretary, Project Manager for the County Fair and other special assignments
Hallie Forcinio	Chair of the Governance and Preservation Sub-Committees, Co-Chair of the Nominating Sub-Committee
Kim Hageman	Multiple Sub-Committee assignments
David Kuebler	Projects Sub-Committee and other special assignments
Bruce Page	Governance Sub-Committee and other special assignments
Jan Papez	Governance Sub-Committee and other special assignments
Mark Tapajna	Chair of the Projects Sub-Committee and other special assignments
Mike Theus	Projects and Governance Sub-Committees and other special assignments
Phyllis Crespo	Legal Advisor* (co-chair of the Nominating Sub-Committee)
<b>Garden Staff</b> Carol Stadden	Garden Coordinator and OBCDC Staff Representative*

\*non-voting