

Benjamin Franklin Community Garden

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

Operating Committee: 2012 Annual Report

I. GARDEN MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

The Garden Committee has:

- A. Designed and ordered tree identification signs and is preparing a map showing tree locations to serve as educational tools for gardeners, students at Ben Franklin School and members of the community and highlight the many unusual specimens in the Garden.
- B. Evaluated bids and hired a contractor to install driveway gates to secure the garden when school is in session and the alley gates must remain open.
- C. Purchased top soil to fill low spots (funds from a Neighborhood Connections grant).
- D. Purchased seed packets to distribute to gardeners to supplement the free seeds and plants provided by Summer Sprout.
- E. Established a new garlic plot; held a drawing of gardeners interested in sharing the space. Approved establishment of additional garlic plots for planting in fall 2012.
- F. Planted a small trial area in the southwestern corner of the garden with cover crop seeds provided by the Extension service.
- G. Organized the season kick-off meeting, First-Time Gardeners meeting, Ice Cream Social, Harvest Picnic and Dollar Dog nights for gardeners.
- H. Organized volunteer crews to take care of the structures and grounds, prepare for season startup and conclusion, stake plots, grow and deliver food for the hungry, maintain the compost area and host events.
- I. Cleared brush and dead/dying trees, removed hazelnut stumps by the northeast corner of the shed in anticipation of planting a welcoming entranceway bed.
- J. In conjunction with OBCDC, hired a landscaper to cut grass and reduce associated costs.
- K. Paid all operational expenses except staff wages, which are financed by Garden plot fees.
- L. Provided gardeners with leaf humus, wood chips and horse manure
- M. Scheduled brush mowing and plowing for late October 2011. This service was funded by the Neighborhood Connections grant in preparation for the 2012 season.
- N. Planted three Norway spruce trees donated by OBCDC. Also planted four fruit trees, plum, nectarine, sour cherry and sweet cherry, provided by Summer Sprout.
- O. Organized a work party of approximately 25 volunteers from KeyBank to clean up the woods and remove invasive mustard weed.
- P. Provided a work venue for school volunteers, court-ordered community service and residents of Kiss Foundation's Lia House. The Lia House volunteers have raised produce for their residents and done many other tasks including wood chipping, path maintenance and compost preparation.
- Q. Funded repair and replacement of vandalized water pipes and faucets.

II. OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- A. Won Blue Ribbon at the Cuyahoga County Fair for the fifth consecutive year.
- B. Delivered more than 2000 pounds of produce to hunger centers to date. We continue working toward our goal of 6000 pounds, so please continue to donate your surplus.
- C. Earned certification as a Monarch Way Station.
- D. Updated documents for the 2012 application packet.
- E. Completed writing a Policy and Procedures Manual.

- F. Provided monthly articles for *Old Brooklyn News*.
- G. Provided content for frequent updates of the website, www.oldbrooklyn.com/BFCG.

III. HOSTED OR SUPPORTED COMMUNITY EVENTS

- A. Pedal for Prizes
- B. GardenWalk Cleveland

IV. FUNDRAISING

- A. Applied for a \$4800 grant from Neighborhood Connections and received \$3080, which is earmarked for the purchase of top soil and event expenses.
- B. Applied for a Community Leadership Grant from KeyBank, received \$500.
- C. Organized a highly successful third annual fundraiser at Cleat's (March 2012).
- D. Raised funds via 50/50 raffles and sale of water/soft drinks, Wendy's tickets, hot dogs and T-shirts.
- E. Has begun collecting recipes for a *Recipes from the Garden* cookbook to be published early in 2013.

Garden Committee Members, 2011-2012

John Jenkins	Chairman, <i>ex-officio</i> 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
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)
<u>Garden Staff</u>	
TJ Oryshkewych	Garden Coordinator and OBCDC Staff Representative*

*non-voting