

October Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting started at 7:34. In attendance: Ruth Marinaro, Jennie Markovich, Shelly Crandall, Sandra Shipley, Foram Sheth, Michelle Troise, Peter Blejwas, Catherine Lafferty, Charles Gerber, and Marc Dieffenbacher. Absent: Faser Hardin, Annie Chadwick, Jennifer Sterlin.

Treasurer's Report - Foram Sheth presented the treasurer's report including revenue from key sales and donations in August and September (\$401 and \$409), and expenses incurred for website renewal, domain name hosting, purchase of a Japanese maple tree, the bulb order.

Soil Amendments -There was discussion of the grant form Green Acres which is deposited with Victoria's Garden Center in Paramus New Jersey and historically used for soil amendments. Discussion focussed on whether a balance existed, and consideration given to using any balance for purchases beyond the soil amendments. Foram Sheth indicated she had asked Victoria's for the invoices to determine the balance, and Jenny Markovich indicated she had copies of the invoices. A motion to use, if a credit exists, funds to purchase 1 heavy duty wheel barrel, 2 adult brooms and 2 children's brooms, up to \$200 for ornamental fall/winter plants for the front garden, a hose nozzle, and 2 bags of happy frog conditioner was unanimously approved. Sandra Shipley and Michele Troise plan to visit Victoria's over the coming weekend.

Requests for additional purchases will be deferred until Foram Sheth receives balance information from Victoria's and has an updated budget.

Key Sales -There was also a discussion of October key sale dates and it was confirmed that the sign outside the garden indicates that sales continue through October and Catherine and Jennie Markovich agreed to do the key sales for the first Saturday of October.

Memorial Brick Ceremony - It was also agreed that the Memorial Brick Ceremony for garden members who have passed away will be held the same day as the October Volunteer day, October 20th. Charles Gerber agreed to host the event at 2:00 PM in the garden.

Honey Sales - Will take place from 11AM to 12 noon on October 20th. A motion to price the honey jars at \$20 per jar for all purchasers, was approved with one dissenting vote.

Volunteer Day - Foram Sheth will send out an announcement inviting volunteers to be in attendance at 10 AM to 2 PM to assist with the delivery of the soil amendments and cleanup. Key Sales and Honey Sales will take place from 11AM to 12 noon, and the commemorative brick ceremony taking place at 2 PM.

Green Thumb - Marc Dieffenbacher advised that Andy Padian (previous Chair) had informed him that every four years the garden must re-register with Green Thumb, there are two dates: Saturday October 13 from 11AM to 2PM and Wednesday November 28th from 6PM to 9 PM. The process includes presenting list of the gardeners, key holders, and the By Laws addressing the garden's mission, rules for membership, and process for dealing with disputes. A set of keys must also be provided. The presentation is to be made at the 6th Street Community Center, 638 E. 6th St. A decision was not reached as to who will handle the re-registration process.

New Business -

1. Catherine Lafferty indicated that she had been approached by Sarah Hellerstein, a key holder and local teacher inquiring whether two 1st Grade classes (14 children) could visit the garden as part of a school science project on urban gardening. Catherine Lafferty will advise Sarah Hellerstein to complete a Special Events Application form, note that a

Certificate of Insurance would be required, and a Steering Committee Member would need to be present if approved. Ruth Marinaro indicated she would be willing to save that role. Inquiry will be made about the # of children and the # of adults supervising them.

2. Foram Sheth advised that an inquiry had come in as to whether the garden could be used for a commercial jewelry video shoot from 8 AM to 12PM involving a group of 10 to 12 people, for an undetermined contribution. After discussion, a motion to decline the opportunity was unanimously approved.
3. Front Bed Allotments - Inquiry made about concerns that one front bed allotments had been shortchanged. Discussion indicates this had been raised previously and Sandra Shipley is looking at the issue.
4. December Dinner Meeting - Marc D moved to restore past tradition of holding the December meeting at a local restaurant. The motion was approved, and locations will be discussed at the November meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.