

2 August 2023 Steering Committee Meeting

Members Present: Cat, Clarence, Debbie, Foram, Homar, John, Mark D., Mark K., Tony (all members present)

Meeting called to order by Foram Sheth (Chair) @ 7:35 pm

Financials: John reviewed the Morgan Stanley account \$30,000.00 in their Bank Deposit Program (Money Market Fund); he thinks we could invest in money market funds; rate of return

Wanted to keep it as safe as possible; is a money market fund investment also available; money market fund is earning about 5% (they are very secure instruments); need to know who the authorized signatory is; John Sheridan moved to Ireland more than 10 years ago; call and ask how we can get access to the account; ask questions to keep it safe, and potentially add more

Liability insurance through the Trust for Public Land; John and Homar will look into this 1. How to access account and 2. What are options are

Volunteer Coordinator Update: John and Clarence (our new Volunteer Coordinators) met, and offered the following updates:

1. Want to introduce themselves to CCG subcommittee members
2. Plot markers and watering help signs
3. What the committee needs, asking people to update their volunteer hours
4. Keeping a Google doc of volunteer hours
5. Send link to all gardeners of volunteer hours google sheet

Plot Walkthrough Report: Homar emailed all of the plots we had noted; have a couple of plot holders who have not responded and plan to send a final notice letter to one plot holder

Monday, August 7th at 7 pm, do a plot walkthrough

NYC Parks GreenThumb visit: Vanessa from GreenThumb (the division of NYC Parks which oversees all of the NYC Community Gardens) came by and filled out her GreenThumb checklist, which is a tool in her yearly evaluation a community garden); Cat, Homar, and Foram met Vanessa and briefly gave her an overview of the front and back gardens, pointed out our bee boxes and the gazebo (where we hold our monthly key and honey sales), and showed Vanessa

our water sources and the plant and food scraps composting areas in the back garden.

Vanessa's feedback was that the sidewalk outside has uneven pavement in the front and that we should have consistent trash pick up

Cat will reach out to city agency contacts (Parks) regarding uneven sidewalks in front of CCG

Commemorative Bricks Ceremony: The bricks have arrived; Jane suggested Saturday, October 7th at 3 pm as the date and time for the Commemorative Bricks Ceremony; Jane is in charge of reaching out to friends and family members of those being honored w/bricks (we install the bricks on an area of the CCG's pathway in the front garden after the ceremony).

Forum made a motion and Debbie seconded it to have the ceremony on Saturday, October 7th, motion passed unanimously (motion carried).

Garden Bench Work Needed: The garden bench across from the gazebo needs repair and recentering; Mark D offered to speak to Joe to plan a time to work on this; Joe had notified some members of the steering committee prior to tonight's meeting that that bench had toppled over (this is something we want to address asap!).

Discussing Changing Day of Meetings and Returning to In-Person Meetings:

The Steering Committee meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm. In our July meeting, some members mentioned that they have conflicts on the first Wednesday and could we choose an alternate day. We discussed holding our Steering Committee meetings on the first Monday of the month @ 7:30 pm. Forum made the motion and Cat seconded it that we hold our Steering Committee meetings on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 pm starting with the October 2, 2023 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously (motion carried).

Note that in September (of 2023), we will still meet on Wednesday (September 6th) via Zoom (at the usual time of 7:30 pm).

Find out if Fountain House is available

Key Sales:

September Saturday Key Sales will be on September 9th (not on September 2nd).

Garden Phone: Debbie took it to have the debris taken out so that the charger again fits into the phone (and the phone can again be charged)

Group of Gardeners and one non-gardener wish to meet with the Steering Committee:

Debbie announced that there are a group of six gardeners (and one non-gardener) who want to meet with the Steering Committee. They said they are available to meet August 14, 15, or 16; and expect Steering Committee meetings to volunteer their time to meet with them outside of the normal steering committee time. Debbie said these individuals will try to get space at Fountain House to meet in person.

We discussed that Steering Committee members are available on August 21st @ 7:30 pm (and that many are out of town due to August holiday time).

Debbie said that she will make sure that the Steering Committee members receive the questions these six gardeners + one non-gardener wish to address with the current Steering Committee members. Note that Debbie Mullins and Mark Dieffenbacher who are newly-elected current Steering Committee members (but who both have served on the Steering Committee in previous years/decades) also identify as being part of this group of six gardeners who wish to query their other fellow Steering Committee members. Also note that Steering Committee members Clarence and John have only been to the July Steering Committee meeting and to this one as they are newly elected (and have never served on the Steering Committee previously).

Key Holder Agreement: Needs to be updated; add the time that the CCG opens (9 am - dusk)

Bulb orders:

Cat made a motion and Forum seconded it that due to the increasing prices of bulbs, each front-bed gardener will get double their Fall Bulb Allotment this year. Motion carried. Jane confirmed that she will place the CCG's Fall Bulb Order for the front-bed gardeners this year.

Meeting adjourned: 9:16 pm