

Clinton Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting

Venue: Fountain House

Date: 7 May 2024, 7pm.

Present: Homar Barcena, Lisa Cicchetti, Mark Kellogg, Clarence Klugh, John MacKay, Mauricio Marron, Richard O'Brien, Tony Waag

Absent: Andrew Begg

1) New Committee members:

Mark and Tony are stepping down from the Steering Committee. The Committee sincerely thanked them for their dedicated service.

Under Bylaws Article III section 2, the Committee must elect additional members following a vacancy (with newly elected members required to stand for election at next General Meeting).

The Committee had received nominations of Cindi Clark and Nicole Siani.

The Committee voted unanimously to elect both candidates after a review of their bios.

2) Bees

Homar is applying for research grants to study bees through Kingsborough Community College. Grant review and disbursement can take up to a year if awarded.

John has contacted the Bee Conservancy and is awaiting a response.

The Committee will follow up on their sources and have updates for us in the next month.

There was a request to define services we actually need as we obtain quotes. For next month's meeting, Richard will compose a draft beekeeper scope of services with input from Lisa. Clarence will compile options of beekeepers to contact for proposals. We will plan to obtain three bids.

3) Finances

The Committee heard information from TD bank about keeping the garden's reserve funds in 6 month CDs at a rate of over 4 %.

Expenses:

- A check for Fountain House is ready and Lisa will deliver it.
- Michelle's request, and Fountain House donation, were the two largest expenses this past month.
- The allotment was exceeded. The Committee agreed to put a policy in place to keep costs at their allotment, with any overage made the gardener's responsibility to cover out of their pocket.

- The bulletin boards are being refurbished to give them more longevity, so they will not need replacing this year or possibly multiple years. Lisa is leading this process.

- TD Bank Report:
 - 3 signees remain (current steering committee members).

- CD Rates are very favorable and can be automatically rolled over. John will look into closing the Morgan Stanley account.

4) Off-boarding previous Committee members

Banking - now only 3 current officers are authorized signers at the bank, with previous Committee members confirmed to have now been removed.

Access to Google Drives - Clarence will remove former committee members.

Instagram account of previous Chair to be removed from the website's gallery page

Cabinets in shed - all current Committee members should have access. The Co-chairs will look into how to change the lock codes and inform these to the current Committee members.

5) Volunteering update

Committee members agreed to take more responsibility in responding to internal emails and doing more fielding of emails. A resolution was made to note time sensitive emails in the subject line.

John, Clarence, and Lisa will meet in two weeks to review processes of electronic volunteer sign up and recording of hours. Lisa will report on status of member volunteers at next meeting.

6) Events

The Committee voted to continue to participate in the 9th Avenue Food Festival. It was noted that a Committee member needs to be there for both days. It was noted that Cat has made arrangements for the garden to participate, and she will help coordinate on the days of the event. The volunteer signup needs to be up, and the membership needs to be emailed.

Digital payments: The garden phone needs to be located and charged up in time for the festival. Homar will look into Zelle and Square for QR payment options.

Plants for resale: Clarence will follow up on contacts made to greenmarket nurseries to purchase plants for resale to back gardeners and for the 9th Ave fair.

7) Complaint

The Steering Committee received a complaint from a member of the public alleging that garden members racially profiled her and locked her in the garden over the Easter weekend after she brought dogs into the garden. Clarence will draft a response for Steering Committee's review. The point was raised that Greenthumb Handbook states that in order for dogs/pets to be excluded from premises, this language must be included in garden bylaws; it was suggested that bylaws should be promptly amended to include this.

8) Plot renewals

Renewals are being finalized and swap requests will be communicated once complete.

9) Items deferred until next meeting:

- Action plan and review of bylaws
- Grills/Fire hazards

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.