

Clinton Community Garden Steering Committee minutes

Venue: Fountain House and Zoom

Date: 10 September 2024, 7pm.

Present: Homar Barcena, Andrew Begg, Naomi Haber, John MacKay, Mauricio Marron, Richard O'Brien, Tatiana Pena, Nicole Siani.

Absent: Lisa Cicchetti, Cindi Clark, Clarence Klugh.

1) Bank account update:

John MacKay gave an update on the bank account. We should have the money from the Morgan Stanley account transferred into the regular bank account by next week.

2) financials update:

The garden made \$955 last month from key and honey sales. We have 3 boxes of honey left. So we might consider discounting them to finish selling them before the new season of honey is harvested.

For expenses there was only one this month — flowers for the funeral of a former member.

The Committee discussed whether a more formal set of criteria for memorials might be needed. The Committee agreed to consider including in next year's budget a line item for memorials, and to agree on a common approach.

3) Replacement of wood on the benches:

The wood on the benches in the garden is badly deteriorated and needs to be replaced. This will need to be built into next year's budget.

We may have funds available in this year's budget. The Committee agreed to investigate whether there are options to obtain donated wood from Green Thumb, Another proposal was to seek donations from people who might wish to sponsor a bench for memorial purposes.

Off Season would be an ideal time to complete this work.

John MacKay agreed to investigate the Green Thumb Option and report back to the next meeting.

4) Tree service:

The service comes in November and they will look at which branches need to be pruned. As a neutral party they have the ability to make recommendations independently based only on the health of the tree. John agreed to ask the Parks Dept if they also provide this service for free.

5) Plot inspection updates:

The second set of plot inspections was undertaken in late August. Plot holder agreements require plots to be kept up or they will be reassigned. The second warning emails will remind holders they will be reassigned if they do not begin to actively garden their plots.

6) Plot reassignments on death of a member:

The Committee agreed that the rules for reassigning the plot of a deceased member need to be clarified. Similarly, other plots that become free mid season for other reasons should be included in a clarified policy.

The issue was referred to the by-laws subcommittee to consider in conjunction with the by-law amendments.

The Committee agreed to open up membership of the by-laws subcommittee to any Garden member who would be interested in contributing.

7) Beekeeper:

There are 36 jars left that need to be sold. We have key sales up until October.

The Committee discussed the appropriate time to put the beekeeping contract out to bids. This month is too early, given we have the honey harvest coming up. The Committee recalled that it had earlier approved a draft request for bids, and this should be issued in the early winter for next year's season.

8) Brick paying ceremony:

The Committee agreed to set Oct 5th as the date for the brick laying ceremony, with October 6th as the rain date.

9) Volunteer Coordinator report:

Only 34 out of 100 plot holders are logging hours.

The Committee again noted that there are not enough volunteers to fulfill all the duties.

This issue will be brought to the wider Garden membership's attention during the by-laws amendment process. A proposal will be made to include a requirement to fulfill volunteer hours as a condition for retaining members' plots.

9) Compost committee:

Cindi Clark has drafted a proposal requesting a Brown Bin from DSNY for the garden for the rollout of the mandatory curb side Composting coming to Manhattan starting October 6th, to be further discussed.

The food scrap drop spot is now ready to go. Cindi and her team will begin by training the Compost Committee then back gardeners. We're discussing expanding it to key holders or others next summer (combined with the Brown Bin system); we have some existing signage that we'll look to update here as well.

The Compost Committee found 81 bags of plastic bagged compost we'd purchased unused during a count last week. We should consider encouraging gardeners to use our in-house compost and rolling back the budget on the compost bags we purchase for next summer.

A neighboring garden also asked if we could donate some compost to them. Anne and Cindi are in communications and will loop in the steering committee on next steps.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.