

General Meeting 1/24/09 at Queens Library

Meeting called to order about 3:05.

1.) Garrett presents first item of discussion:

Discussion of fiscal sponsorship for grants and what costs the garden should pay for that service. We have gotten sponsorship from the Community Environmental Center for our new grant from City Parks Foundation. This means that CEC, as an incorporated non-profit, performs the tax and other administrative processing on the grant. CEC asked for either 10% of the grant (a customary charge for fiscal sponsorship/ administration) or the placement of a 4 x 4 foot sign on the garden fence promoting Build It Green, which is a CEC project.

Discussion is opened to general members regarding their thoughts on Garret's item listed above.

Motion was made to have this grant accepted with the 10% fee paid to CEC specifically for this grant, and that with later grants the conversation will be opened prior to applying regarding the fee v sign issue.

Seconded

Vote: Majority in favor, 0 against, 1 nay.

2.) Garrett presents the second item and the steering committee suggestion:

Deciding who will be the primary contact with the city government on the re-registration. On January 18th the steering committee voted to recommend Stephanos for primary contact and Garrett as secondary.

Discussion is opened to the general meeting regarding the requirements for being the primary contact on registration.

Gary presented the agreement he wrote up stating that whomever accepts the position is working for the garden not for the city, and can be removed at any time the garden decided their interest has switched from representing the garden's concerns and enforcing the city's. Motion made to accept Gary's proposal, seconded.

Vote: All in favor, 0 against, 0 nay.

Gary handed out ballots for primary and secondary contact.

Stephanos as primary with 16, Garrett as secondary with 16 votes.

3.) Lynne and Kaitlin presented the concept of the welcome packet and agreement for gardeners to sign.

Suggestions were taken from the floor regarding content.

4.) Rebecca, Stacey and David presented the communal plot to the general meeting:
What is it? In 2008, a group of Two Coves Garden members formed a committee to create a Community Plot. It is a place where all members of the community-- individual plot gardeners, and non, are welcome to garden, harvest, and in general, enjoy the garden together. In 2009 this plot is a reality, but needs help, muscles and support from gardeners and the community. The Community Plot is located in the central space, just after the entrance. Together we beautify the berm and cultivate the central area. The Community Plot is a space for vegetable experimentation (perennials, space-needers, group pollinators, etc), to harvest abundance, to giveaway, to work together, for education, and whatever else we can dream together to make the Two Coves Garden a greater space for community! Below is our mission statement and goals. The Community Plot is open to everyone so join us!

Mission Statement:

The Mission Statement and purpose of the Two Coves Garden Community Plot is to grow community through: creating a space where gardeners can garden together; inviting greater participation in the garden; building bridges by sharing work, education and food.

Points to Consider:

- 1) The Community Plot (CP) open hours will coincide with the Two Coves Garden's open hours. This benefits the Garden by:
 - a) having dedicated gardeners present while gates are open*
 - b) a place for Garden visitors to interact, communicate and enjoy themselves in the garden**
- 2) The CP increases the number of people per square foot that have access to gardening.*
- 3) The CP provides a space for potential gardeners on the wait list to participate in gardening while waiting for individual plot placement.*
- 4) The CP will host regular Community Harvest & Potluck Gatherings*
- 6) As stated with our goals of community gardening and education, this plot is an experimental learning space.*

Discussion was opened to the floor for questions and concerns.

Motion was made to vote on communal plot as proposed above with the berm area.

Vote: All in favor, 0 nay, 0 abstain.

5.) Lynne brought up the plot renewal issue. An email was sent out prior asking all members to respond if they planned on keeping their plots. Lynne stated that if people were at the meeting and had signed in she assumed that they were keeping their plots and only needed to respond to the notification, additional gardeners and directory questions. People who had filled out the renewal form in the November meeting had already expressed their interest in renewing their plots.

6.) Gary presented the plot redistribution. Approximately 15-20 plots are available. There are roughly 21 people on the waiting list. If there is yellow 'wet paint' tape on your plot that was Gary marking out plots.

7.) Lynne presented Stephanos' question if the garden was interested in learning more Greenhaus and material shed.

Discussion was opened with questions.

Motion was made that the garden is in favor of learning more about the Greenhaus, and that Stephanos should prepare a packet with info for the next meeting,

Vote: All in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain.

8.) Shirley asked how topics should be brought to the steering committee. The steering committee members present suggested that people develop a proposal and email the steering committee google group @ two-coves-garden-steering-committee@googlegroups.com

9.) Kaitlin presented the idea of using the garden location for Make Music NY. She has a friend who is involved in the organization and would like to come talk at the next general meeting about getting involved.

Regarding Make Music New York, this is a new live, free musical celebration across the city that takes place on June 21st. This is the third year for the festival, and just last year there were over 875 performances. We're planning an even bigger festival for this year, on Sunday June 21, 2009. On this day, public space throughout the five boroughs – sidewalks, parks, streets, and more – become impromptu musical stages and dance floors, and social meeting points. Musicians are brought out either by word of mouth, other musicians or neighborhood organizers. In the past, there's been everything from a single guitar player on a corner to block parties curated by famous local artists.

As this is a free event and organizers, including myself, are contributing as volunteers, please note that this is all done without financial support. But we're confident that it's possible to make something happen, as there are more than 3,000 musicians from previous years who want to be part of MMNY '09. As a local Astorian, I just think it'd be great to give people the opportunity to enjoy music and learn about Two Coves Garden through the MMNY festival.

10.) Gary was wondering if there was any interest in maintaining the additional communal plots (not the berm area), he is willing to coordinate volunteers. Please contact him.

11.) Stacey brought up the issue of having the shade trees moved. She spoke to Helen Ho of Green Thumb about arranging for someone to move the trees. She also spoke Trees NY about how to move the trees without hurting them. If we continue to garden over the roots we will end up kicking them. Please let Gary know if you have a tree that needs to be moved.

Emily moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:55. Chris seconded. All in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain. Meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.