

Meeting began at 6:35 with many gardeners in attendance as well as 4 people from Parks and 1 from Vallone's office (see attendance sheet attached).

-Bernard and Garrett brought printed out designs from last year's design process.

-Woman from Parks (possibly Edie Stone's office) introduced the meeting by noting this was a rescheduled meeting after no one got word of the first one until day-of.

- Noted this meeting was to discuss the next phase of construction with \$450K from Vallone's office as a capital project.
- Their intention is to only focus on the center gathering area and make every effort to not touch any personal plots (possibly some on the edge of common area/street).
- Using garden's design as a guide develop a common area that features a shade structure and more formalized gathering area with tables and benches. Used the phrase "in sync" with our desires for our garden.
- an ADA specialist will be consulted to make all improvements ADA compliant (required by law).
- They are here to listen to us and hear our requests for the project.
- Time frame is hard to scope but there would be a minimum of one year from now until any actual work could be ready to begin with the option of holding them for a couple months for our harvest. Likely starting next fall (2011).

Andrew from Parks:

- The intention is to avoid closing the garden all together except for possibly a short while, but closing the center area for the duration of construction which could potentially run into the next growing season (spring/summer 2012).
- Indicated we would lose access to the center of the garden with the possibility of a separate construction entrance on Astoria Blvd.
- Discussed what would be included in design: A light shade structure/bandshell, lockable shed, benches, an electrical outlet in the shade structure.

They then asked for gardener's to express what we want from the project

(Answers will be in parenthesis):

- Luscious: an old fashioned gazebo
- Bernard: focus on green, sustainable building materials.
- Sheri: Not to lose the charm of the garden, disinterested in a performance space.
- Sarah (of the tasty cake): Expressed appreciation for listening to us, and bothering to ask our opinions, would like to keep the grass, not make a concrete slab. Happy about not interrupting our growing season.
- Alia: Also thanked them, curious of size of shade structure. (we should tell them how large we want it.)
- Stephanos: Where did the money come from? (Vallone - capital money \$340k for construction directly), Can it be allocated elsewhere? (no) Will the bid be open to the public? (yes it is a matter of city record)
- Gary: Can the shade structure be pre-fab and therefor not take several months to construct? (Don't know but maybe)
- Joseph: Please leave the grass, a bandshell should be on the south edge of the gathering area for a natural slope for an audience on the grass. Don't pour concrete just to spend the money. A canvas construction much like Denver's airport would be

beautiful and in balance with the space and nature.

- Gary: Will there be a bathroom? (Too expensive)
- Woman from Parks mentioned that after this money is spent the chances are good we will not get any more so to not limit ourselves with what we want, because this chance will likely not come up again.
- They will work up some sketches and send to us to discuss them further.
- Bernard: Can we have a composting toilet? (they need to research it)
- Luscious: The additions should be pretty
- John C: How common is it for this arrangement of asking us our opinions to happen? (This is a first in Queens) So it is pioneering? (sure) So why be so quick to make this happen? Why not slow down? (They are here to listen to us, they are not rushing us, but if we wait the money could vanish)
- Eric: Please explain the planning process again so we understand the timetable better. (very long explanation of city beaurocracy)
- Sarah: Would like to hear the designer's thoughts (She (Designer) is interested in making the project something that would complete the garden, she has seen our website, looked at photos of events and understands we are a close community. She has seen our design from last year and the process of designing it this time is a matter of going over what we want and implementing it.)
- Name unknown: Will it interupt our growing season? (They don't know but will be sympathetic to the season). Why shut down the whole garden when only the center will be constructed on? (Not their intention)
- Man in bike shirt: What about maintainence in a couple years? (don't know, that would not be the same money, there are major budget cuts)
- Alexis from Vallone's office: They want to be collaborative and positive, they are not trying to uproot a happy community. Wanted to know if this was a good representation of the membership. (Bernard answered there were about a quarter in attendance, others pointed out it is difficult to get many people on a weeknight, and to meetings in general)
- Joseph: a windmill would be appropriate (Nature Note: It then got Very Very windy). If the construction and shut down area is limited to the center and not closing the garden, they can take as much time as they want.
- Alia: Sharon would like a greenhouse (they would consider it but have had bad experiences trying it in the Bronx).
- Alia: It is important for the shade structure to not block the view from the street of greenery.
- Sheri: Build it Green is a good resource in our neighborhood. Also a water feature would be nice.
- Luscious: Would like a water fountain like the kids' fountain at Astoria Houses.
- Victoria: Would this interfere with plots? (They will try to not disturb any plots)
- Name Unknown: The meeting was too short notice, we need more time to gather people (They said had three weeks notice which they consider ample, they were under the impression we had a committee in charge of disseminating such information and had done so three weeks ago after the first meeting).
- Marta: Wished to echo the value of a greenhouse for seed starting and pointed out a community garden in Brooklyn has done it successfully (they'll look into it).

- Parks asked how long it took for us to gather a design last year? (Garrett answered 6 months) They wanted to know if we all saw it and agree on it. (we said yes, mostly, but people leave and join all the time).
- John C: What about casting shade on plots? (designer: Shade is being considered in the design)
- They said they would notify us of another meeting by late July/early August, the meeting would be for possibly early september. They expressed that it is very important for them to have a conduit of communication that reliably informs members of what is going on and when meetings are (the phrase "I thought you had a steering committee" was repeated several times, and was answered that it changes, but yes.)
- Then there was some thanking, a request for the attendance sheet to be emailed (which it was first thing on 6/30).

I am sorry for the names I didn't know and if I read my scribbles wrong: please correct on Ning.

- add to attendance: Garrett Ramirez who was present but did not sign in.