

Minutes of Newark Community Garden Association Spring Membership Meeting

April 10, 2021

The meeting was held on Zoom due to the ongoing pandemic. President Maureen Spagnola called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM after a quorum had joined. (The ultimate participant list was approximately 42.) Maureen welcomed old and new gardeners and any guests, reminding us that masks and social distancing are required in the garden. She observed that, despite the pandemic, volunteers have really been stepping up to perform the many tasks that keep the garden running. The new DPR rules are now finally out and are available on our website; gardeners should familiarize themselves with the rules. One of the rules limits plots in community gardens to one per household; that freed up a few plots in our garden for reassignment.

Committee reports

Beth Kaplan, membership Chair, reported that things were in good shape, thanks to Lynn Rothberg who preps and assigns plots, and Jane Brookstein who manages the renewal dues. She closed the waitlist in September 2020, after it reached 265 names (a record), and will reopen it when we are down to 200. Currently, it is at about 209. Twenty-five plots have been assigned to new members from the wait list; a number of people on the wait list turned out to be duplicates or had moved, lost interest, or gotten a plot at another community garden. Lynn said that we are on track to assign more plots this year than average. The average wait list time is about 2 years. Beth reminded the group that her position is up in the fall, and encouraged anyone interested in taking it on to apply.

Jane Brookstein, Treasurer, briefly went over the financial situation. From January 1 through April 10, there have been \$876 in expenses, mainly P.O. Box rental, Quickbook fees, and office supplies. We have a large reserve (\$46,000 in the bank), in anticipation of a big expense redoing the water system after the 2021 growing season. So far, about 180 people have paid fees. About 70% have opted to pay the additional no-work fee. (Treasurer's report attached)

Arisa Koyama, Volunteer Coordinator, announced that we would not have formal workdays for the foreseeable future, but that there were a number of ongoing activities for which volunteers were needed. These are typically announced through the listserv. Response has been very good so far.

Bill Bonner, Garden Monitoring chair (formerly known as Rules), commented that his attention recently has mostly been focused on (often inadvertent) use of inappropriate fencing, and that most of the problems have now been fixed. He reminded gardeners that they need to start work by May 1 and have their full plot fully under cultivation by June 1st.

Susan Akman reported on Garden Services (John Mormino was not able to attend). She has arranged for a bulk pick-up for next week; all materials to included in that pickup must be placed in the marked spots by the service road by the end of Sunday. Under the new DC procedures, she will then take a picture of what is to be picked up and send it to the DPW coordinator, who will finalize the arrangement. The no parking sign at the service road is in place. Hopefully that sign will also allow for delivery of wood chips. The chip pile is low because trucks were not able to access the service road

while the no parking sign was missing. Susan also reminded gardeners that anything that does not get into the bulk pickup by Sunday or go into the compost should be taken home for disposal; the city no longer does trash pick up for us because there was too much non-compliance with the bagging directions.

Tom Lore, Compost Manager, reported that Bin 1 has been closed off, Bin 2 is open for weeds, and Bins 3 and 4 have been opened for taking compost, which seems to be of good quality. He implored gardeners to dump their weeds at the back and sides; otherwise, his crew spends a lot of time moving the weeds to the back and sides.

Paul Basola, Veggie Compost Manager, reported that the veggie compost system is in good shape. Some of the pressure of our site has been relieved by the establishment of veggie composting at McLean gardens. Users of our site are not limited to plot holders; anyone can ask Paul to be trained.

Ryan Fitzgerald and Elana Goldstein head the tree committee. Ryan reported that they organize tree watering, deer guards, pruning, and increasing awareness of the trees. He thanked all who had helped in these efforts. They are currently working on an inventory of all the trees and shrubs in the garden area. He reminded gardeners that the Board needs to approve the planting and removal of trees.

Hillary Andreson and Jennifer Precht now run the children's garden. They reported that instead of group sessions, the schedule visits by one family at a time for social distancing; they have a special listserv for this. They are discussing with Maureen on expanding the children's garden to have room for flowers and herbs that will provide a broader sensory experience for the children. They are also exploring ideas for involving children from the new City shelter.

Dennis Enslinger expressed great appreciation for all who had worked on the beautification plots. Generally, specific people are assigned to particular beautification areas (which are being renumbered). The rock garden needs multiple people. The rock garden needs work removing invasive yellow wildflowers. When digging them up, be sure to include a clump of dirt; they spread by nodules. They should go into trash, not the compost, for obvious reasons. Dennis can be reached at dje3336@gmail.com.

Jennifer Baxter, Social chair, said that she is thinking of having some Zoom community events. And solicited ideas.

Bob and Ann Albright reported on the bees. There are three hives, which seem to be doing well. If you see a swarm, don't be alarmed (the swarming bees are not aggressive) but rather report it. Contact info is available at DCBeekeepers.org. they have people on call who will respond quickly.

The meeting concluded with a general discussion of garden questions and suggestions and brainstorming.

One person asked for clarification of who pays for what; i.e., is there a fund that provides for fencing/raised beds? This could provide uniformity on fencing. Lynn explained that the Garden buys and repairs things that are used in common, e.g., tools, wheelbarrows, hoses, and waters. Individual gardeners are responsible for anything in their plots. It was suggested that a mechanism be developed which would enable interested people to get together for group purchases of fencing material. Bill said

that if anyone had leftover fencing, they should put a notice on the listserv rather than leave it in/by the shed.

Jennifer Baxter raised the question of whether there was some way to set up drip irrigation systems. Right now, it seems tricky because hoses are shared. Someone suggested the low-tech technique of pails with holes in the bottom set among the plants. Other ideas are welcome.

Somebody raised the question of increasing dog poop in the picnic area. The general consensus was that we should politely point out that the signs say no dogs in garden or picnic area. It might also be helpful to ask the dog park coordinators to remind their members that they should access the dog park via the service road or steps, not through the garden.

Cathy Winer commented on the fact that the public paths are often higher than the adjacent plots, which causes drainage problems in the plots. She asked if, when the paths are dug up to install the new water system, the paths could be lowered a bit to alleviate this problem.

There being no further business, Maureen closed the meeting shortly after 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Winer, Scribe

Newark Street Community Garden Association

Balance Sheet As of April 10, 2021

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Primary Business Checking (1156)	46,004.92
Total Bank Accounts	\$46,004.92
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	5,920.00
Total Accounts Receivable	\$5,920.00
Other Current Assets	
Undeposited Funds	0.00
Total Other Current Assets	\$0.00
Total Current Assets	\$51,924.92
TOTAL ASSETS	\$51,924.92
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	18,579.66
Retained Earnings	16,511.95
Net Income	16,833.31
Total Equity	\$51,924.92
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$51,924.92

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Profit and Loss by Month

January 1 - April 10, 2021

	JAN 2021	FEB 2021	MAR 2021	APR 1-10, 2021	TOTAL
Income					
Sales			16,910.00	800.00	\$17,710.00
Total Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,910.00	\$800.00	\$17,710.00
GROSS PROFIT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,910.00	\$800.00	\$17,710.00
Expenses					
Job Supplies			109.79		\$109.79
Post office box rental		288.00			\$288.00
QuickBooks Payments Fees	42.40	42.40	368.81	25.29	\$478.90
Total Expenses	\$42.40	\$330.40	\$478.60	\$25.29	\$876.69
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ -42.40	\$ -330.40	\$16,431.40	\$774.71	\$16,833.31
NET INCOME	\$ -42.40	\$ -330.40	\$16,431.40	\$774.71	\$16,833.31