

Community Garden Council Meeting Minutes (7:00pm Apr 21, 2015)

Present: Jeremy, Anthony, Jill, Eva, Shane, Carol

Regrets: Jason, Lorraine, Greg, Lauren

- I. Meeting called to order by Anthony
- II. Approval of last meeting's minutes: Minutes approved
- III. Visitor business (introduce visitors)
 - a. Introductions made to Jim
- IV. Business
 - a. Blue Dot Movement (Jim): Jim provided a power point overview of David Suzuki's national "Blue Dot Movement" (song by Bare Naked Ladies). Canadians believe in an inherent right to a healthy environment – clean water, fresh air, healthy food and a say in decisions that affect us. Canada needs to take bold action and recognize the right to a healthy environment in our Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Jim shared the story about Paula's father, a local farmer who used three different chemicals on his farm and later on suffered from three different types of cancer. Currently, Canada does not have a great track record – The Canadian Great Lakes have twice the amount of pollution

The Blue Dot movement's aim is to ignite Canadians asking them to call upon local municipalities to officially recognize declarations respecting people's right to live in a healthy environment. The local chapter is working with environmental advisory committees and has provided a model declaration, so that each municipality may customize the model and make it their own.

Membership actions to support the movement:

- Online petition
- Talk to politicians
- Become a member of the extended team
- Promote in personal circles

Action: Carol to circulate powerpoint to committee

- b. Compost update: Anthony set-up delivery date with Randy Adams and Jim Zarzycki at Regional Landfill. A communication was sent out to the network. Some orders are coming in. Michelle volunteered to ride the truck on delivery day. Thank-you Michelle!

Action: Anthony to coordinate compost orders

- c. Workshop: Healthy Communities Partnership, Apr 30th 8:30am-1pm (Carol) All interested council members are invited to attend. Invitation was forwarded.
- d. Events
- i. Community Garden Event will take place May 12th. Evening will begin with a tour of Mansion Greens, garden located in Weber park, then will move onto the Library for a time to network and exchange seeds, seedlings, followed by a workshop on “Potager” a technique to make edible garden plots aesthetically pleasing.
Action: Jill will coordinate KPL set-up and have invoice sent to Public Health.
Jill will order refreshments from a caterer
Carol will send out invitation by e-mail to garden coordinators/council
 - ii. Taste of Woolwich: Jill attended this food oriented event. She had several inquiries re: community gardens and several people sign-up for the newsletter. One of the workshop speakers, Gil, is starting a garden at the Gale Presbyterian church in Elmira. Another person states there is a garden at a Mennonite Church which has not connected with the garden network.
Action: Carol to send an invite to both gardens to join the network.
 - iii. Garden Book Swap, Meet & Greet; Apr 25, Colour Paradise, Mannheim
Invitation provided by Colour Paradise to participate.
Action: Eva to promote in Newsletter.
 - iv. ECOfest, May 30th, Waterloo Museum. Invitation forwarded to participate. Theme is “light”. Fits with plant photosynthesis. Activity for children needed. Volunteers needed and form needs to be submitted.
 - v. Earth Day: Eva volunteered. She will have a garden mandela activity.
Action: Carol will get supplies as needed.
- e. Waiver Form: Jill has completed a draft and has sent out copy to committee for input before posting on website.
Action: Council to provide input.
- f. Further ideas re: Incorporation: Gil has experience with incorporation of charitable groups and has some resources/contacts to share if the group is interested.
Action: Carol to contact Gil re: resources/contact information and forward to council.

Eva will talk to Richard, a lawyer gardener, to ask if he could help with the legalities.

- g. Garden updates: Jeremy provided an update of the Salvation Army garden. They partnered with Pollination Canada, Kim Fellows to increase biodiversity at the garden to bring in beneficial insects. They received a \$6,000.00 grant to create a food hedge. They are involving university students in the project. They'll be offering pollination workshops.

Action: Jeremy to provide a promotional piece to Eva for the newsletter.

- h. School Scan Report: A first draft has been circulated. Allison appreciates feedback.

Actions: Members to forward feedback.

- i. Newsletter: Eva will include:

- CGN event
- Request for volunteers for ECOfest
- Update from garden council

V. Recurring business

- a. Financial Report (No Change: Lorraine)

VI. Calendar

- a. Next meeting May 19th (3rd Tues). Eva & Shane will be away

VII. Adjournment