

Community Garden Council  
Meeting Notes (7:00 p.m. Jan 20, 2015)

Present: Anthony, Shane, Eva, Leanne, Greg, Jill, Carol; Absent: Jeremy  
Regrets: Lorraine, Jason, Lauren; Guest : Leanne Sim

- I. Meeting called to order
- II. Review of minutes:
  - a. Correction: change Agenda to “Minutes”
  - b. Business from:
    - i. Shane and Eva provided an update from the website working group. Six people attended. Unanimous choice of design – clear and easy to read. It will include a map of the gardens and 4 sections. Group working on the headings. A section on recipes was suggested. Volunteer were recruited to write content.
    - ii. Preston Accessible garden – accessibility piece completed. Carol offered to help group with next steps but has not heard back from them. Carol also offered to help organize a ribbon cutting.
- III. Visitor business (introduce visitors)
- IV. Business
  - a. Adopt TOR for 2015 (Anthony)
    - i. Suggestion for new SOCIAL MEDIA role: New TOR to include insert for social media. Motion made to adopt TOR with the social media role. All were in favor.

SOCIAL MEDIA

    - Manages the council’s social media presence
    - Focus is on mature social media forums (currently Facebook, Twitter, etc) rather than be early adopters
    - Post items (interesting article urls, upcoming events, etc.) on both the CGC website and social media streams

Bring questions/observations to council meetings

**Action** Anthony to send description and Carol will add and distribute.

  - b. Council roles for 2015:
    - i. Greg will keep policy lead
    - ii. Jill event planning
    - iii. Jeremy indicated interest as chair
    - iv. Lauren agreed to do social media
    - v. Eva will continue with school policy project/web design/newsletter via mail chimp
    - vi. Shane will continue with school policy project/web design

**Action:** Anthony will touch base with Lorraine/Jason/Jeremy re: ongoing or new roles; treasurer, media and chair
  - c. Community Garden Website content
    - i. Garden photos (with permission): Eva/Shane to send photos. Carol mentioned obtaining consent for people pictures. Some felt it took away from the spontaneity and

personal touch? Anyone who has photo's are asked to forward them to Stephanie [swatson@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:swatson@regionofwaterloo.ca)

- ii. Volunteer for content maintenance: Lauren is willing to consider this role and will meet with Carol/Stephanie next week.
- iii. Volunteer for event listing: Eva? Jill?
- iv. Council content: Anthony to submit
- v. Volunteer application form:
  - 1. simplify the form and have a click button – name, e-mail, comment
  - 2. have two distinct volunteer forms – one for council; another for garden site volunteering
  - 3. suggest having a legal waiver for posting photo's/volunteering – person reads and clicks agree.

**Action:** Jill will forward a template

- d. Preston Garden update; neighbor conflict (Greg)

Greg provided the history of this garden build and the resistance from the neighbors. The resistance has been ongoing and unrelenting. The City Council has directed that a consultation take place. Paul Wilms, City of Cambridge will be organizing a broader community consultation on community gardens and will invite all Cambridge gardens to participate. It is anticipated that the resisting party will attend and will have unfavorable photo's of community gardens. The issue of esthetics will need to be addressed. Cambridge gardens are encouraged to display photo's of their gardens.

**Action:** Carol to forward a contact list for the Cambridge gardens to Paul.

- e. School Garden Policy Project update: (Eva, Shane, Carol, Leanne)

Eva/Shane provided an update. Allison Eady has been hired as the consultant with Felix Munger providing support (Sustainable Societies Consulting Ltd) . Goal of the project is to conduct an environmental scan of schools. The questionnaire will focus on current obstacles and how to overcome them. They will need to apply to both school boards for ethic's clearance for the study. The board applications are due end of January and beginning of February. Once cleared, school staff (principals, facilities or other applicable staff) will be sent an electronic survey, key interviews will be conducted and focus groups will be held with staff/students involved in school gardens. An interview list was reviewed at the meeting, along with a preliminary sample of survey/interview questions. Eva shared that school gardens/naturalization of school grounds has become a hot topic within school professional development workshops. Community Garden Council is interested in reviewing the materials and providing input. **Due to tight time frames, all input will need to be provided within a 2-3 day turn around time to be considered.**

- f. Community Gardens Website meeting report (Eva, Shane) – see business from

g. Recruiting "blurbs" (Jason)

Jason forwarded a sample recruitment ad for the newsletter. Some edits were suggested. Eva will revise and include the ad under the garden council update in the newsletter.

Sample: "*Experience personal growth. Join the Waterloo Region Community Garden Council. Help your community flourish through planning, organizing, and working with people in your area. OR Plant hope. The Waterloo Regional Community Garden Council is looking for organized, capable people to help our region develop and sustain community gardens.*"

h. Spring event: Jill will lead a planning group for this network event. It may include a fund raiser.

**Actions:** Eva to request for volunteers to contact Jill by e-mail under the council update.

Carol to forward past topics and Jeremy's survey to help guide future topics.

i. Financial Grant opportunity, TD Friends of the environment due February 15<sup>th</sup> and Evergreen.ca; deadline: Feb 2

j. Sustainable Food Systems Series; Jan 18-Mar 8; Sun 1:30pm (table): Kim Fellows is arranging a Sustainable Food System Series and has invited community garden to set-up a display for the events. Volunteers are needed

**Action:** Member to let Carol know which days they are interested in going.

Eva is committing to attend this Sunday. Carol will arrange to have display available for pick-up on Thursday.

k. TOW Apr 13 event: Community gardens will have a display.

Set-up is before 5. Event runs from 5-8 pm

**Action:** Greg and Jill volunteered to go.

V. Recurring business

a. Financial Report (Lorraine) defer

VI. Calendar

a. Next meeting Feb 17th (3<sup>rd</sup> Tues)

VII. Adjourned At 8:40 pm