

## COMMUNITY GARDEN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes (7:00pm Jun 19, 2012)

Present: Anthony, Alisa, Greg & Carol

- I. Call to order – called to order by Anthony. No Quorum = no decisions
- II. Approval of last meeting's minutes. Minutes were circulated by Carol by e-mail and copies were distributed. No revisions were requested.
- III. Visitor business (introduce visitors): Lynn, Heather & Carrie, and Fanis
- IV. Business
  - a. City of Kitchener Garden Coordinator contract: Heather is stepping down and Carrie was willing to step forward but has an issue with the garden coordination contract with the City of Kitchener. The contract holds the city harmless but holds the garden coordinator liable for damage to property/persons. Carrie has looked into this with her ward councilor, Zyg. Janecki and the city's legal assistant, Ms Shantz, to investigate if the clause can be removed from the contract. It was to be brought to city council this past week. She also wonders what other coordinators have done and if there is garden insurance available. All city coordinators sign the contract – some may have gardeners sign waivers but there is a question if that provides protection and would necessitate legal advice. Other gardens on church or neighborhood association land are covered under their insurance policies. When churches have asked their insurer they stated their policy covers it- as gardening is considered relatively low risk. Options explored were sponsorship for insurance, post a sign – garden at your risk, gardener waivers, etc., no one was certain if these actions were sufficient protection.  
**Action:** Carrie will wait for City follow-up and will contact garden council at the end of summer. In the meanwhile Heather will inform the city that she is withdrawing from the coordinator position. Heather will ask for copies of city council minutes.
  - b. Weber Park Garden start-up: Weber Park received a City of Kitchener grant and is busy setting up its garden.
  - c. Judy's report and promotional material; do we want council logo to be present? (Anthony,Carol) Anthony asks if the story tellers were informed of their materials becoming public? Greg states most research undergoes

ethical review and covers use of findings with their participants. Carol to check in with Judy re: process followed. In principle, use of logo is approved.

**Action:** Carol to check in with Judy.

- d. "To Make a Farm" movie, Princess showings (Alisa) this movie is already scheduled at the Princess in August – Suggest promoting on the newsletter
- e. City of Kitchener and Public Health Meeting: A meeting was held for the Cedar Hill transfer discussion. Tim Wolfe was present and open to community garden collaboration. He was new to his role at the end of the summer 2011. Garden council members want to raise the question of city grant transparency and communication processes.  
**Action:** Greg will set-up a meeting in the fall.
- f. Colour Paradise: This greenhouse offered flats of plants to community gardens. Orders, distribution sites and drivers were set-up quickly and many gardens benefitted from the donation.  
**Action:** Anthony to send a thank-you card.
- g. Urban Ag Summit: Summit to be held in August. Carol submitted a proposal for presentation on building partnerships with the multicultural project and it was accepted! Sponsorships are available for attending. See the website <http://urbanagsummit.org/>
- h. Noah's Defense: Information was shared about Noah's defense of his thesis this upcoming Thursday.
- i. Multicultural Community Gardens Project: Fanis provided an update on her work:
  - i. Remainder of TD Friends Funds went to support 2 multicultural gardens; Downtown Kitchener Multicultural plots (coordinated by Wasan Issa, supported by the Nexus Centre) and Vermont Park Neighborhood Garden (coordinated by Michelle Z., supported by Ecole Harmonie and Vermont Park Neighborhood Association)
  - ii. A Community Engagement grant of \$4,540.00 was donated by the Region of Waterloo Environmental Fund to cover 25 project coordinator hours per month, a web portal and community engagement sessions.
  - iii. Two Early Bird Events were held – 60 garden plots are filled with 15 more available @ the Vermont Park site.
  - iv. The African Canadian Association of Waterloo region partnered with the African Wellness Initiative for a Canada Student Summer job grant and was successful.

v. The Northdale Patchwork community garden was featured in Wilfred Laurier's Sustainability Plan 2012-2016 under section 2.0

j. Accessible Garden update: Carol provided an update.

V. Recurring business - deferred

a. Financial Report (Lorraine)

VI. Calendar

a. Next meeting: no meeting in July; 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of August

VII. Adjournment