

COMMUNITY GARDEN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes (7:00pm Sep 20, 2011)

- I. Call to order: Meeting called to order by Anthony. Jason, Michelle, Anthony & Carol present.
- II. Approval of last meeting's minutes: Approved – no corrections forwarded by e-mail
- III. Visitor business: Michelle invited Tina T. from the new Vermont Park/Ecole L'Harmonie to attend
- IV. Business
 - a. Diggable Collaborative Report; accessible garden decision making process: (Anthony & Carol).
 - i. Public health is responsible for the work plan and will need flexibility in decision-making as work will require formation of a subcommittee with gardens. A CGC member is welcome to be a member of the subcommittee. CGC will receive bi-monthly updates.
 - ii. Discussed accountability/responsibility issues with individual garden applications to funders and potential impact on CGC.
 - b. KW Community Grant communications (Michelle) Michelle investigated the possibility of funding for the training workshops. She found that KWCF will fund capital expenditures, new programs and curriculum. They were not keen about one-off programs or to provide honoraria for trainers. Decision was to postpone until spring to prepare better.
 - c. L'Ecole Harmonie support from CGC (Michelle) Michelle has met the garden coordinators for the new multicultural garden @ Vermont Park and has offered to provide support to the garden.
 - d. Council roles for the New Year: We are in need of new council members. Carol to contact CGC members not in attendance to assess if they were planning to commit to another year. Jason, Anthony, Michelle will stay on for another year. Anthony has offered up the chair position if anyone is interested but is willing to stay on until someone indicates interest.
 - e. New student potential (Carol) Eric Keep is a new MSW student who will assist with the Accessible Garden project. Another student from WLU community psychology program has indicated interested in assisting an "ethnic" garden start-up. OWR and KWMC centre were willing to host this

student to assist with the Cedar Hill United Paradise Community Garden. Her original research proposal of benefits/challenges of starting a garden has already been done. An alternate focus was suggested re: feasibility study on the topic of micro-economic development within community gardens. CGC members expressed concern about the potential of community gardens making profit from their gardens. Debate ensued about the issue:

- i. Can private individuals profit from public space?
- ii. Is it ethical for gardens receiving grant dollars to make a profit from their garden?
- iii. Will it impact CGC's accountability/responsibility towards funders?
- iv. Is it ok to have gardens provide skill development and other opportunities to assist individuals rise out of poverty?
- v. Is it ok to allow micro-econ. opportunities for gardens to become financially self-sustaining, ie sell product to put back into the garden funds?
- vi. Should we look at these values as a part of the study?
- vii. Do we want to allow the commercialism of community gardens?

Anthony will seek input from council members not present. Carol expressed concern re: student placement and research topic. Michelle expressed a need for a policy.

- f. Brainstorm: Harvest Celebration: There is no harvest – postpone. Discussed partnering and providing training opportunities in the spring in 2 streams; gardening technique and garden coordinator topics.
 - i. Suggested exploring a workshop in February with Karen Landman.
Action: Jason to check with Student Life Centre re : location and link with food services for chef demo. **Jason** will also look into ideas from Nancy O'Neil from Farm Aid for fund raising ideas.
Michelle to call Master Gardeners/KW Horticultural Society for potential to partners in training/Seedy Saturday opportunities.
Michelle to contact Greg re: Karen Landman.
Carol to link with **Regional Water Services**.
Anthony to link with Bob Wildfong.
- g. Brainstorm: Recruitment Plan: All members to try to recruit 1-2 members for empty positions. Michelle has a few people. Carol will contact Noah S.

V. Recurring business

- a. Financial Report (Lorraine) Deferred

VI. Calendar - deferred

a. Next meeting Oct 18 (3rd Tues)

VII. Other: Set aside your availability for a free workshop on Place-making offered by the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Council. October 20, 7 pm @ Cambridge Community Centre and the morning of October 21 @ Knox Presbyterian Church. Depending on delegate interest community gardens will be a destination point to explore the importance of positive place in a community.

VIII. Adjournment