

Community Garden Council Meeting

Minutes (7:00pm Oct 18, 2011)

- I. **Call to order:** Anthony called the meeting to order.
- II. **Approval of last meeting's minutes:** Minutes were distributed – any changes can be forwarded to Carol
- III. **Visitor business**
 - a. **Introduce visitors:** Welcome Nadeem & Noah. Congratulations to Tammy and Alisa on the birth of their new babies.

IV. **Business**

a. **Cambridge Official Plan comments (Greg)**

Food System Roundtable: Greg received a message from Marc Xuereb. Greg was invited to a Food System Round Table policy review but there were many logistic changes in meeting schedules which left Greg unable to attend. FSRT recruiting membership – Greg will attend.

Cambridge Municipal Plan: Greg sent a submission to the City of Cambridge:

- suggested definition be in line with Region
- Commended inclusion in all land use
- Neighbourhood improvements – suggested Community Gardens in “at risk” neighbourhoods
- Changes in wording

Tammy questioned if input was given to Cambridge Environmental Advisory Committee. Greg did not.

CGC - Greg sent a sheet on ability to sell produce from Community Gardens- states through North America it is a policy to remain not for profit. Greg also worries that gardens will no longer support charities like the food bank.

Action: Greg to send a copy to Tammy who sits on Committee.

b. **Meeting and Event Brainstorming with Dan Meagher, Water Services Waterloo Region (Michelle)**

Michelle gave an overview of a 6 garden workshop series offered by Water Services - their attendance and events. As there is a need for community gardener education, Michelle and Carol met with Dan to see if there was interest in partnering with CGC/PH. Water Services hires a consultant to co-ordinate the series at various garden centres with exception of Cambridge Community Art Centre. Their cohort is a refined population. They have a great budget. Dan was interested but some concerns were that the sessions always have waiting lists. The sessions

are held in larger Garden Centres which is great for ambience etc., but only hold a 40-60 person capacity. More people could benefit if the sessions were videotaped/web casted. Carol will check in with Public Health to see if there is a budget to offer some webcasting or video taping of the series.

Carol to send out a copy of [DOCS # 1049670](#) (Ctrl Click on the number)

Discussed other possibilities of Themes/Speakers:

- **KPL – Healthy Food System;** Candace giving a talk on urban agriculture.
- **Karen Landman** – research on North American Community Gardens (not necessarily just European)- KPL suggested as a venue
Action: Greg will contact Karen – question best venue, Greg will contact KPL
- **Seedy Saturday** – has 1 day event with a series of workshops on gardening technique – could CGC have a presence there?
- **Promotion of events** – tough to connect with gardeners – need to “break through” language barriers, room for online community – Facebook. There is a need for a communication system. Maybe there is a need for Community Garden mailboxes? Lorraine and Violet are willing to call garden coordinators and ask them to promote events to their gardeners as some co-ordinators are reluctant to provide gardener contact info.
Noah is willing to help with graphics.

c. Council Responsibilities (everybody)

- Noah Shumate is willing to join council and to be a part of the garden accessibility project. Noah’s background is landscape architecture and he is studying urban agriculture.
- Michelle is interested in taking on the fund raising role.
- Anthony will continue to chair until someone else expresses an interest.
- Nadeem is interested in social media but will make a decision later.

d. Accessible Garden Kickoff; Nov 22 4-6pm (Anthony)

November 22, 4-6pm at Trinity Village Care Centre

All council members are invited!

e. Accessible Garden Update (Carol, Anthony)

Anthony provided an update – working on a RFP (Request for Proposals) and a transparent system of hiring a contractor. Anthony provided some details of what's in the RFP.

Noah is interested in being the CGC representative on the coordinating committee.

f. Foodstock/Mega-Quarry Report (Violet, Anthony)

Violet, Greg and Anthony attended the event, featured many local chefs/food. Thousands of people were there to protest the Quarry being installed. Violet circulated postcards to the Minister of Environment. Covered by Global and CTV. The public was misled – informed the land would be bought for potato farming. To find out more go to YOU TUBE, Jim Cuddy, Sara Harmer and Cuff the Duke to enjoy songs

g. Council policy regarding for-profit sales of produce (discussion)

Debate: can gardeners from Community Gardens sell produce?

i. Fanis: yes – poverty reduction

ii. Selling produce to cover expenses should be ok

Arguments were aired on both sides of the issue.

Greg moved that “CGC accept spirit of legal definition of Community Gardens being adopted by Municipalities viewed as Not For Profit, but recognize gardener can organize fundraising events for the benefit of the gardeners as a whole” Seconder – Violet

Vote: For: 6, Against: 2. Carried.

V. Recurring business

a. Financial Report (Lorraine)

The current credit Union is now charging us for our account. Lorraine asked them to waive the charges but they could not. Lorraine advices that the account be closed and reopened at the Bank of Montreal where there are no additional charges. Everyone was in favor of that recommendation

VI. Calendar

a. Next meeting Nov 15th (3rd Tues) @ 7 pm

VII. Adjournment