

Community Garden Council Meeting

November 15, 2011

Agenda

Present: Jason (chair), Greg, Noah, Nadeem, Tammy M, Carol

Regrets: Anthony, Michelle. **Absent:** Lorraine

1.0 Call to Order

7:02pm

2.0 Approval of last meeting's minutes

Approved – Agenda – add Garden updates

Visitor business

Round table introductions given

Garden Updates:

Jason – UW gardens put to bed,

Nadeem – Cherry Park garden talking about expanding,

Noah – Northdale Patchwork garden has finished.

Carol – Pastor Brad Watson from Nexus Centre is looking for garden space downtown Kitchener.

Jen Vasic from Mosaic Counselling Centre interested in garden space for their clientele.

3.0 Business

A – KPL – Greg contracted KPL and FSRT to assess topics and attendance. About 25 people attended the Food System Round Table (FSRT) talks @ KPL

B- Bank change – defer.

Student Life Centre – Jason enquired cost to rent the room for public events. \$300.00.

Jason was unable to reach Nancy O'Neill

C- Cambridge C.G. Policy – Greg sent a letter to planning as requested. Two weeks ago, Greg got informed of a new community garden policy being presented Monday at City of Cambridge Council. Greg reviewed policy and saw some gaps. Positives – start up fund of \$1000.00 to community gardens. Alarming - is the policy of “ 100 m ban on gardens close to any residence”. Greg consulted Cambridge community garden co-ordinators and had input from Mary VanderMunnick which he was able to quote to council. Mary shared her garden was 20 m to nearest residence. Residents living close by were the eyes and ears of the garden. Demonstrated why it was a good thing to have gardens close to residence.

Greg made a motion to delete the 100 metres. They did pass the motion, but it was unclear in the end as the council does not appear to follow rules of order – Greg checked the minutes.

Also, rare sent a one page fact sheet about their community garden – Greg offered to have the page posted on CGC web site. Anthony has already posted it.

Food System Roundtable has made a call for committee members: Greg volunteered to become a Community Garden rep on FSRT.

D – Accessible Community Garden Update- Chandler Mowat: Noah

Notes: City needs to be kept in link. Staff change over occurred and they were updated on the project. They have about \$ 25, 200.00 budget to improve the garden with accessibility features. Site specifics: There is an issue of accessibility due to slope of pathway to the garden. Kelly, from the City met with new horticulture supervisor, Tim Wolfe and an Independent Living Centre rep to assess pathway's slope. Conclusion is affirmative for accessibility to the gardens.

E- Cul de Sacs – Community “Flower” Gardens. City of Kitchener offered grants of \$1000.00 each for neighbourhoods to apply. Question if this is from the same pot of money for community vegetable gardens. Vegetables are forbidden to be grown in the cul de sacs – salination not so much an issue as other contaminants. Noah contacted Greg Hummel and Tim Wolfe for more information and will follow. Info sheets on salination distributed.

Greg contacted City of Cambridge re: policy blvd. planting, as well.

F- Garden Coordinator Meetings: For the suggestion of hosting two garden coordinator meetings per year, Carol suggested we hold 2 council meetings solely for the purpose of the garden coordinators where our regular agenda is put aside; propose May – Cambridge, June- KW.

G- Brantford presentation- Carol presented at Brantford re: multicultural project and received an honorarium on behalf of CG-WR. Jason signed.

Action: Greg to give to Lorraine to deposit re: multicultural gardens.

H. Other

Multicultural Gardening: Greg noticed garden produce caught by frost at the Patchwork field. Questioned need for gardening fact sheet about gardening in Canada; when to plant/harvest; how to deal with pests/small animals eg: how to avoid a skunk. Jason has contacts who can translate informally. Question if E.S. student might take this on as a project. Mary Louise McAllister is a professor who might support this request.

An update was requested re: status of OWR student, Emily's research topic. Greg suggested she research allotment /urban farming. Jason's father is an urban farmer who could assist. Emily can contact Jason for link.

H.- Funding – Funding available through Home Depot for kids gardening and Regional Community Environmental Fund. Carol sent links to Michelle for distribution to the network.

Action: Michelle to post.

5.0 Next Meeting: December 20. Please forward any food dislikes/allergies/dietary restrictions.

6.0 – Meeting Adjourned 8:25pm