

Community Garden Council Meeting Minutes (7:00pm Apr 17, 2012)

Present: Heather M., Noah S., Anthony S, Greg M., Lorraine P, Tammy (& Marshall), Michelle Z., Alisa M. (& Liliana) and Carol P.

- I. **Call to order:** Meeting called to order by Anthony
- II. **Approval of last meeting's minutes:** Deferred
- III. **Visitor business (introduce visitors):** Round table introductions were made
- IV. **Business**
 - a. **Karen Landman KPL talk, Apr 24th:** Greg provided details on the educational session hosted in partnership with the Food system roundtable. All council members are encouraged to attend. Greg distributed posters all around town and would like to have some door prizes. Lorraine suggests to ask "Colour It Paradise" and various other suggestions were given. Greg will invite Tim Wolfe. Council agreed to a \$50.00 honorarium.
 - b. **Garden Coordinator meetings? Cambridge, Kitchener?** Carol indicated that council had discussed hosting 2 garden coordinator meetings each year with the purpose of reconnecting with the gardens and their issues. CGC advised hosting one meeting spring and fall in Cambridge and KW.
 - c. **Kitchener and Waterloo City Policy Update:** Greg provided an update about the inclusion of community garden in all land use space by the City of Waterloo. They weren't going to allow gardens in the industrial zone – they were worried about complaints from gardeners re: pollutants. Alisa states this policy will revolutionize the city.
 - d. **Blooming Earth, Apr 21st** Carol stated we need a representative or cancel. Greg indicated interest.
 - e. **Healthy Communities Partnership, Apr 27th** This is an all day workshop on Lobbying. Greg will be speaking about his experiences with policy advocacy in urban agriculture.
 - f. **Movie night proposal "Fresh".** Tammy's mother bought a copy of the video and Tammy found it really interesting. Council indicated interest in having another movie night at KPL. Tammy will look into details about a public showing of this movie.
 - g. **Connecting the Dots Waterloo, May 5th, First United Church 1:30-4pm:** Carol received an invitation for Community gardens to attend and have a display. It is a workshop on environmental sustainability in Waterloo.

Council members were not available to attend. Carol will send a request out to the Waterloo Garden coordinators.

- h. Land inventory and analysis for urban agriculture:** Noah mapped out potential land space for urban agriculture as a part of his thesis. Discussion followed. Noah is willing to share his work after defending his thesis.
- i. Online crowd sourcing to find potential garden sites:** Noah described the software capacity to find potential garden sites and suggests CGC might want to have the crowdmap.com service, which is a website that the CGC could link to. The link Noah set up was <https://urbanagriwaterloo.crowdmap.com>
Alisa and Tammy will share the link with their environmental committees. Anthony will post the link. KW Urban Harvesters also has a link that could be posted. Alisa to send her link to Anthony.
- j. Permaculture tour dates Sept 1-2 or Sept 29-30:** Alisa has a connection to a perma-culture instructor, Natalie Kruger, who is willing to host a tour. Council felt the end of September might be a better date for attendance although there was some discussion of attending when the plants are in full bloom. Alisa will look into Natalie's availability. The issue will be transportation - perhaps a car pool can be set-up. Carol will not be able to offer rides in her vehicle during work time due to regional policies.
- k. Taste of Woolwich:** The event was held April 16. Anthony did the promotion and the event was well attended.
- l. Kitchener garden grant issues:** Carol shared that several people from the city applied for the community garden start-up grants last summer but the city has not communicated to some of the groups and has denied others. Some of the applicants had spent a lot of energy organizing and found it discouraging. Heather shared her recent experience as well. She has a waiting list for her garden for several years. She found an ideal garden site on East Forest Trail. There is open space that no one uses. She surveyed the neighbourhood with her husband and everyone was supportive with the exception of one person who had language barriers. She submitted the grant and met with multiple barriers. She asked about the grant system and if the curb-side non-vegetable grants came out of the same fund as the community gardens as was told it did. She was told her grant will likely not be approved. Heather will submit it anyway to make it official. Heather suggests the process with the city be more open and transparent. Greg and Heather will meet to discuss the issue further to decide on next steps.

Lorraine will inquire about the grant process at the next Kitchener in Blooms meeting.

m. Compost/woodchips preparation: Anthony has had a larger than expected request for compost and woodchip orders. Garden council only has the capacity to hire the truck for one day. Cost per 8 cu yd will be \$80.00 – there was some concern that the amount may not cover the expense if there are delays. Anthony suggests that getting the compost from the Waterloo landfill site would help cut down on time and cost. Anthony will call Jim Zarzycki at landfill to enquire. Lorraine will ride with the truck and take care of the payment.

n. Garden Updates, new gardens: Carol shared the new garden starts on the listserv:

- The garden in Ayr is progressing well and should be ready for summer
- Eastwood Collegiate Environmental Club supported by 3 staff, Adam Kasper received a grant from the Region to help them with their garden start-up
- Michelle will be co-ordinating Vermont Park Association working to link both L'Ecole Harmonie and St Agnes Schools and recruit gardeners/partnerships
- Fanis is working on a project “Young City Growers” which is separate from community gardeners but will link with The Patchwork Community Gardens. Fanis also received a grant from the Region.
- Wayne Kneisel and a group from the Salvation Army will have a new garden at the Kitchener Community Church on Tilsley Drive
- Rachel, Amy, new garden coordinators, with support from the city, Rhonda Larsh, have started The Sunset neighbourhood garden in the Eastbridge Neighbourhood
- There is interest in starting a garden in Wellesley. A community nutrition worker is linking with the Lutheran church.
- Pastor Brad Watson, Dave Smith and a group of folks from the Nexus Centre will have a new garden in downtown Kitchener. Links have been made with Stride; a Community Justice Initiative re-integrating incarcerated women.
- Jana, Conestoga staff et al will have a garden at the Doon Village Campus of Conestoga College. This garden will be making links with their culinary programs.

V. Recurring business

a. Financial Report (Lorraine): The account currently has \$467.02.

VI. Calendar

a. Next meeting May 15th (3rd Tues)

VII. Adjournment