

COMMUNITY GARDENS COUNCIL OF WATERLOO REGION MINUTES

Tuesday December 14, 2010/PUBLIC HEALTH BUILDING

Room 308 – 3rd Floor, 99 Regina St, 7pm

CGC members in attendance: Anthony – Chair, Carol – Public Health Nurse, Alisa, Jason, Tammy, Michelle

1. Guests, new members, partner introduction and presentations

No guests, new members, partners present at this meeting.

2. Review of November meeting minutes

Review of the AGM will be deferred again until Chaylene's return

Review of Terms of Reference and roles – Anthony approves the role of Chairperson description, Jason approves the Recorder/Secretary description, Chaylene will be resigning from CGC and the Event Coordinator role, Michelle will be temporarily absent from her role of Community Garden Liaison and will resume again in the spring, Jason will be temporarily resigning as Recorder/Secretary till the spring, Tammy will continue as Woodchip/Compost Coordinator and temporarily fill the Recorder/Secretary role on behalf of Jason, Lorraine (absent from meeting) may or may not continue as Treasurer. Jason pointed out the signing authority issue is a concern, Anthony will ask Greg and Lorraine to review signing authority.

3. Web/online presence

Anthony emailed Katherine Pigott regarding our current website. Funding ended in 2009. A rep has been invited to discuss the outcome of the website. Anthony will represent CGC. A new home for the websites is being sought.

4. Regional input into the Strategic Plan/2011-2014

Carol distributed the "Have Your Say" info cards and explained how Community Gardens could be supported through this.

5. Accessible Garden update

Katherine Pigott has money to help us pay for constructive designs and estimates. Carol has been able to get some estimates from Helmutz Landscape and Interloc. Interloc pavers seem to be a reasonably affordable product for CGCs accessible pathway project. Tammy will inquire supplier information from a project she worked on in November and can offer experience to volunteer workers on the proper installation of Interloc.

6. Water Tanks

Mary VanderMunnik found a farmer who has 4"x4" tanks available. These were approved for garden use. RARE has allowed us to store tanks with them on the condition they receive one to keep for their garden. City of Waterloo sought clarification about using potable water only for their gardens with Public Health. Public Health states non-potable water can be used as long as it is stored in safe containers – food grade or new to avoid potential of chemical leeching into the water. Public Health recommends that all food from the gardens be washed thoroughly before eaten.

7. CGC Newsletter

Alisa will create a newsletter circulated annually around the late winter season amongst garden coordinators who will then forward the newsletter to the gardener members. Carol will give Alisa a copy of last year's newsletter and ask Kathryn for a budget. Alisa will promote Strategic Plan participation, new gardens, and the water tank situation; aims to get the newsletter circulated in the next couple months and is considering using a PDF format to eliminate circulation costs.

8. 2010 achievements

Carol stated that a record of achievements annually demonstrates a sense of our accomplishments.

Kathryn organized a meeting on Nov 18th. There was a good attendance with many excited people keen on starting gardens and sharing knowledge. An observation of the amount of "red tape" through the city to start a garden was made and suggested to be removed to allow access to the start up of new gardens. Policy work to pursue.

Alisa's open event generated an estimated 40 people. Lori Fioze promoted the Regional Strategic Plan and input via survey on the website. Attendees discussed their vision for a garden in their area. The event was successful and generated enthusiasm and energy.

9. Diggable Communities meeting representation

DC is looking for representation from CGC at the meetings. This would facilitate larger projects; help with funding and resources, and to create a supportive network. This would require attendance at daytime meetings.

10. Fundraising

Michelle suggested soliciting an external fundraiser and also aiding gardens in raising funds. Jason proposed the creation of a fundraising kit. Carol pointed out that there is the potential to have a fundraiser come in and help. There is a „fundraiser needed“ link on our page. This would be a new role. Without raising funds the accessible pathways will not be possible. Alisa asked if people can donate money to us through OWR.

11. Going forward to 2011

- Finish accessible pathways and improve outreach to school students/youths.
- Seed exchange to be developed.
- Michelle to develop her contacts.
- Carol would like to discover why if we are reaching our base and if we are providing a resource to the gardens. Contact with garden coordinators is important to maintain.
- Interest in starting a showcase garden.

12. Adjournment

Anthony adjourned the meeting at 9:15 pm

Next meeting

Tuesday, January 11, 2010, 7pm