

Community Garden Council Meeting Minutes (7:00pm Oct 18, 2016)

Present: Adele (guest), Eva, Shane, Jill, Anthony, Lauren, Carol

- i. Call to order by Anthony 1900 hrs
- ii. Approval of last meeting's minutes:
 - a. Anthony contacted Bruce re: Seedy Saturday
 - b. Carol responded to Leo that no one was able to make a presentation
 - c. Carol forwarded video links to Jill
 - d. Minutes approved for September

Action: Carol to forward to Lauren
- iii. Regrets: Greg, Jason, Tammy, Donna, Lorraine
- iv. Business
 - a. Gardens for Healthy Schools (Carol) The group brainstormed the following questions:
 - 1. What do we want to see happen?**
 - Involve neighborhood associations and link to schools interested in a school garden. Start with one.
 - Contact each school about the report – host a kick-off event to engage community and school boards.
 - Show/host Ted Talk Steve Ritchie
 - Have student led tours of school gardens like the one at KCI.
 - Have a panel of teachers who have successful school gardens
 - Show different models of school/youth gardens e.g.: KCI, Ecole Harmonie, Eastwood Collegiate, Young City Growers, Brighton Child Care Centre
 - Contact Teachers Federation to gauge interest in an event on their PD educational days
 - Bring in guests from Toronto who have successful school enterprises like FoodShare. Link http://foodshare.net/custom/uploads/2015/11/School-Grown-Case-Study_FoodShare_Final.pdf
 - 2. What will it take to make it happen?**
 - Stamina and perseverance
 - CGC will need to apply for funding
 - CGC will need to assist schools to access funds
 - Have a school resource kit ready for schools choosing gardens as their healthy school project so it will be readily accessible to them
 - Gardening skills training for teachers who are interested but have never gardened
 - Matching schools with neighborhood associations

3. Who else cares?

- Eco-schools a not-for-profit certification project for kindergarten to Grade 12 schools whose aim is to nurture environmental leaders, reduce the ecological impact of schools, and build environmentally responsible school communities. Link <http://www.ontarioecoschools.org/about-us/who-we-are/>
- Green Thumbs Growing Kids: Green Thumbs offer food growing and environmental education programs in 4 inner-city schools and 2 park sites. Link <http://greenthumbsto.org/>
- Nutrients for Life Foundation Canada is a registered charitable organization committed to bringing educational materials to the classroom, focusing on soil science and agricultural sustainability. They also have school grants. <https://www.nutrientsforlife.ca/>
- Teachers' unions - They host educational days
- Seeds of Diversity – Their aims are to search out, preserve, perpetuate, study, and encourage the cultivation of heirloom and endangered varieties of food crops and to educate the public about the importance of heirloom and endangered varieties of food crops and the need for their continued cultivation and preservation.
Link <http://www.seeds.ca/>
- Evergreen – They believe that flourishing cities are created through the alchemy of placemaking—holistically improving the intersections and interdependencies between people + natural + built worlds. This is evident in our work [designing school grounds](#); [building community programs](#); etc...and developing the [Evergreen Brick Works](#) social enterprise. <https://www.evergreen.ca/about/>
- Ontario Eco Schools – same as eco-schools
- Emmanuel at Brighton Child Care Centre: Our outdoor natural play spaces are an important part of our emergent curriculum. The educators and children both enjoy exploring and making discoveries about the world in the environment that nature provides. Link <http://www.emmanuelchildcare.ca/playspaces/>
- Region Planner; Chris Gosselin – Manager of Environmental Planning
<http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/abouttheenvironment/environmentallysensitivelandscapeesls.asp>

4. What can we do together?

- We can host an event bringing people together – launching the report and igniting interest into a local project.

b. Plans for WCI/WLU Northdale land (Anthony, Carol): Claire of WLU Sustainability Office informed Lisa and Fanis by e-mail that she felt this project would take a long time to implement as funding is required before the build and she advised the coordinators not to worry at this point. We discussed having a representative from the community gardens and council on the project's stakeholders' invite

Action: Carol will introduce Jill and to Alisa and recommend they approach the city about being invited to the next stakeholders meeting.

c. November garden coordinator event and promotion: Agenda and format of the meeting was discussed:

- i. Meet and Greet – People Bingo
- ii. Welcome and introductions from Community Garden Council
- iii. Ask people to introduce themselves and show case one thing from their garden
- iv. Small group brainstorm on community garden issues – Each group chooses their top 3
- v. Walking Tour: Issues are posted on Flip chart along side a solutions column. Each small group goes to one issue for allotted time (5-6 minutes) Time is called and each group moves to the next issue. Include a community garden council section. Repeat until gone around the room.
- vi. Have a Classified Ad section where people can post their resources, expertise or sales
- vii. Do small group seed mandalas. Ask people to bring in their extra seeds – Eva
- viii. Have the Community Garden Council display up. Invite people to bring garden displays.

Action:

- **Jill** will create and bring a Bonsai Model garden.
- **All members** to bring in extra seeds
- **Jill** will adjust the invitation to print on letter size.
- **Eva** to organize the mandalas.
- **Carol** to organize the people bingo activity

d. Food System Roundtable update: Shane shared the meeting was canceled.

e. Review and approve Terms of Reference: Terms were reviewed with one change recommended.

Amendment: add to value statements “The use of gardens as an educational tool for schools”

f. KWCF profile (Jill): Jill completed the description and posted it with KW Community Foundation. Anthony is listed as the Chairperson with e-mail contact. Carol is listed as support staff from Public Health. It is now “live”

g. Loss of gardens due to intensification (discussion): Several gardens are closing:

- i. City of Kitchener Allotment garden is closing
- ii. Possibly Northdale Park with the new community hub initiative (also there is talk of Salvation Army selling the garden land to the City for a new community hub there as well)
- iii. Wilmot Garden

We discussed the need for policy development ensuring the long term placement of gardens–

Action: Shane to take to FSR Urban Agriculture Working Group

We also discussed talking to developers and asking them to include community gardens as a part of their development plan

Action: Jill will get a list of developers

h. Garden updates (Carol)

- i. Sandhills: Tamara Sealy from Nutrients for Life will be meeting November 09
- ii. Preston Water Tower: nominated for the award. Two letters of support submitted one from garden council and one from public health
- iii. Raresites: Dan is leaving.

(Note see news article about Toyoto gift to the food bank garden at raresites -

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/waterloo-region-springbank-community-gardens-toyota-1.3628367>)

- i. Event: Harvest Celebration, Friday Oct 28 7pm, 94 Elgin St, Cambridge. Everyone invited to attend

V. Recurring business

Financial Report (Lorraine)

VI. Calendar

Next meeting Nov 15th (3rd Tues)

Adjournment