

CGC Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2010

In Attendance: Anthony, Gregg, Elisa, Tammy, Carol, Lorraine and Michelle

Visitors: Elizabeth and Karen from Global Food Systems Course at University of Waterloo, Rachel, Megan and Julie from University of Waterloo ES, Fanis from African Community Wellness Initiative

Undergraduate student projects; Environment and Resource Studies at the University of Waterloo, "Global Food Systems" (ERS 489) with Professor Steffanie Scott.

Several student groups are researching and writing about social and economic factors limiting the access to community gardens by immigrants and new Canadians in the City of Waterloo, to assess the implications of community gardens on greening communities by collecting information on the size of the community gardens and how they function, and assessing sustainability of Waterloo Region's food system by identifying its current strengths and vulnerabilities through establishing a database and profile of organizations."

The projects will help students learn more about community gardens in the Region of Waterloo and also develop skills in research design, collection and analysis of information, and writing.

CGC Suggestions:

- Karen to discuss improving access to Community Gardens services and economic opportunities through community gardening
- Questions about community gardening with relation to new immigrants
- The Council was able to give useful answers and contact information
- Economic opportunities through gardening: the Council is still debating this topic. City of Kitchener's policy is that the gardeners are not to profit from selling produce in gardens on city land. Opportunities Waterloo Region, however, has negotiated with the city that produce could be sold at the neighbourhood markets.
- Overall people spoke to Networking, Tools, and Food Access
- What are the barriers to access for new Canadians:
 1. Tammy
 - Wheelchair accessibility
 - Monetary \$10 - \$20 per season
 - Information not readily available
 2. Greg
 - Locations, churches for all groups, parks, etc
 3. Carol
 - Physical and cultural accessibility
 - Gardens not well marked or marked as welcoming. Despite this, new and old Canadians garden together vs. raised beds with

wood chips (no strollers or wheelchairs) – Lutherwood Village has some raised beds but no accessible pathways.

- What would the main barriers for someone looking for garden access and how can these be addressed:
 1. Greg
 - Students are welcome to contact Greg for his research on the topic
 2. Michelle
 - Some gardens are not inclusiveness minded. Some prejudice against other groups. Need education and cultural awareness
 3. Carol
 - No study yet on prejudice in gardening community

- Rachel – Greening the community and community gardens
 1. Fanis talked about her desire to get have South African community esp. youth involved and notes that there's curiosity in the role of inner city farming in the settlement experience of new comers
 2. Rachel
 - Had garden survey for co-ordinators
 - Asked if the co-ordinators could be called
 3. Carol
 - We need to get permission to give out contact info

AGM: Chay's not present – defer

Review of T.O.R.: CGC members to review and summarize their roles

Diggable Communities Collaborative: Carol discussed the need for more partners @ table to help build sustainability – sponsorship for the gardens

- CASSA Project: Kathryn will provide a report and needs a large block of time in the December meeting

Spring Workshop: Greg suggests Karen Landman who has done a tour of community gardens across Canada. Ask for the best things that she has seen. Discussion drifts towards parking at venues. As per Anthony: if someone else is having a local food day then we could sponsor Karen

Garden Signage: There's still interest in more community garden signage. Can we still get help from the EDSS shop class? Carol – Without Together for Health, it's harder to get money for these sorts of things. City signage policies remain an issue. Schools can help, but need money for the lumber and supplies.

Website: How long will our website stay up? Public Health is funding it. Anthony – The key thing is to maintain control of the domain name. **Anthony to contact Kathryn Pigott** and mention these concerns. We will need a host for our website. Anthony explains what is involved in maintaining a website.

Financial Report: Our bank balance: \$509.68

Compost/woodchips: Tammy hopes to coordinate again. Did well, but could improve.

Annual newsletter: Suggestions for articles include:

- Alisa wants to help Colleen publicize this new garden site @ Preston. Colleen is organizing Preston with flower projects.
- Jason mentioned the WPIRIG Food Justice Shop as a potential article.
- Greg spoke with various Mayoral candidates. Several are very positive.
- Alisa could write about Transition KW series of talks on building community resiliency ; energy issues and climate change. Second talk on more sustainable food. Mayor Halloran is supportive.

Next Meeting: Dec 14, 2010 Room 308 99 Regina St S, Wloo