

Community Garden Council Meeting Minutes (7:00pm Oct 16, 2012)

Present: Laura B., Tammy P., Darija, Meg, Anthony S. (Chair), Greg M., Lorraine P (Treasurer), Michelle Z., Carol P. (recorder)

Absent: Jason R..

I. **Called to order** by Anthony

II. **Approval of last meeting's minutes:** Minutes circulated and approved.

III. **Visitor business (introduce visitors):** Round table introductions were made with an update of their gardening activities:

a. Laura has land on her farm available to start a community garden in the Baden area. She has planned a meeting for those interested. She has already planted winter rye and garlic.

Action: Carol to distribute flyer to the network

b. The Hacienda Garden has a fall CSA available through The Working Centre with produce available like kale, swiss chard and other fall vegetables. They are looking for funding to hire a garden educator. Suggestions were given – TD Friends, Earthday sources, Sobey's or Evergreen

c. Tammy is still looking for the Conestoga College Community Garden and is running into roadblocks. Lorraine indicated the garden is located at the new campus in Cambridge. Tammy states she would like to start a community garden on Doon campus to link to the student Self-help foodbank.

d. Greg has found mushrooms to be bountiful this year and has already harvested many unique types.

e. Lorraine shared that the Kitchener in Blooms had a record year re: participation.

f. Michelle had a successful start with her agricultural project and has connected with Candace.

IV. Business

a. **Garden Coordinator Meeting, Oct 29**, 456 Krug St, Kitchener: Carol sent an invite to help with planning a garden coordinator meeting. Heather, Bill and Violet volunteered. With feedback from the survey sent out last month, coordinators wanted an event that combined opportunity to network and some education. Table talk activities have been planned and James Graham has agreed to speak on "intensive growing in small spaces". The CGC provided a cheque of \$50.00 for an honorarium. The planning group wondered if someone from the CGC would volunteer to MC the event.

Action: Carol to send the request out to the group.

b. **Diggables – Accessible Garden Update:** Site plans were developed with the objective of competitive bidding and alternative options. Helmutz was the only bid received. Their bid provides only some of the features hoped for in the design. Additional funding is being explored to complete the full design. Questions about the project's length of time were addressed.

- c. **Social Housing Meeting:** Carol became aware of a resource (through Emily C) from the Urban Ag Summit and met with housing providers last week to promote the idea of community gardens in social housing. There was some interest and support. The Housing Services Corporation has a new initiative called SEED (Social and Environmental Enterprise Development), which offers support for starting up urban agriculture initiatives in Ontario Social Housing Communities. They work with housing residents to plan and start urban agriculture projects like community gardens. Carol is pulling together some supportive documentation for housing management to consider. Meg has indicated interest in assisting with this project.
- d. **City of Kitchener grant process for gardens:** Greg explained the situation for City of Kitchener garden coordinators and applicants to those present. He proposes to write a letter to the city asking for a more responsive and transparent application process. Council agreed and also asked the letter cc. the department head.
- e. **KPL Food System Roundtable:** Taarini C will be giving a talk about GMO's October 30, 2012 8:30 PM at KPL Forest Heights Branch, 251 Fischer-Hallman Road, Kitchener. See the news item sent out earlier this week.
- f. **Water Sources:** Carol met with Peter L. He is interested in helping community garden find water solutions and has volunteered his time to do this.
Action: Carol to forward his e-mail to Anthony to include on council listserv.
Anthony asked about a water source for the Erb Street garden. Greg will investigate. They have been using water from a neighbor.
Action: Anthony will send Greg the garden's contact info.
- V. **Recurring Business:** Lorraine provided the financial report. Balance remaining is \$460.71 after monthly service fees. A cheque was presented to Carol for the honorarium.
- VI. **Calendar:** Next meeting Nov 20th (3rd Tues) same time same place.
- VII. **Adjournment**