

# Community Gardens Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday Feb 9, 2010

Call to Order

7:06pm

No previous meeting minutes

## Attendees

Anthony – Council (Chairperson)

Lynn – Council

Jay – Guest

Lorraine – Council (Treasurer)

Tammy – Guest Secretary

Greg – Council (Policy Coordinator)

Kristin – Region of Waterloo Public Health

Carol - Region of Waterloo Public Health

Michelle – Council (Community Garden Liaison)

## Old business

### Policy Development & Recruitment Hire

- applied 2 yrs ago for trillium grant, for recruiting for council, etc.
- vote for hire and forward Mary \$1000 to cover costs.
- 6 ‘yes’s.

### Design Charette Planning Meeting Update

- brainstorming, didn’t feel mandatory, gives students opportunities though.
- Kristin will update later

### Garden Signage

- gardens can have signs as long as we design them.
- signage bylaws, need permits (\$)
- if classified as ‘public use’ sign, eliminates cost
- 4 gardens from Waterloo want signs (2 on industrial zoning), not permissible use of the land
- City of Kitchener will design sign
- upon consideration

### Outreach to New Canadians

- poster will be on 8.5 x 11, maybe larger to put bookmarks on side

- Ethnic outreach help (hired) from March – June, to develop inclusivity outreach plan.
- 200 bookmarks = \$650 + 100 posters, 200 posters + 500 bookmarks = \$1050 to use in year 2 and 3 because the year won't be on it. Will be about \$1440 total for the larger amount.
- Public health researched and it made sense to use the language most understood in an area.
- Do we want a map of a few gardens put on the poster, order the lesser amount to gain feedback to improve for a second print?

## New Business

### Pesticide/Fertilizer use in community gardens

- one person wanted to use
- permit needed to use (if infested)
- organic fertilizers allowed. Encourage environmentally friendly gardening.
- Nutrient testing should be done first, samples taken from each garden. University of Guelph?? About \$200-250 for around 25 nutrients? Can we get university students test? N-P-K and pH is easy enough.
- What standards should be followed with regards to fertilizing your own plot? Education piece added to website?
- Michelle will investigate pesticide use.

### Chemistry of Regional Compost

- does the city test for heavy metals and nutritional value in compost?
- Carol will contact landfill and “compost man”
- Can a germination test be done on compost to see what weeds arise?

### Funding/Advocacy for garden shed, tools, etc

- city of Kitchener gives a grant for new gardens (Ted)
- Michelle has suggestions where to direct garden co-ordinators for funding
- Kijiji ad?? For unwanted garden tools.
- UW blooms has a tool swap in May
- Create a web page for tool donations
- Place an ad for locals without computers
- Tim Horton's
- Moorman church

### Seed Exchange

- might happen on April 17<sup>th</sup>, coordinating with movie night.
- Horticultural Society event – could have a table.
- Seedy Saturday – need to check date
- In the spring, maybe post a request to gardeners to save seeds for the fall event

### Arranging for Compost/Woodchips

- concern of the enthusiasm for chip pathways
- delay in delivery
- who can organize for chip delivery (Tammy)
- Carol will coordinate with Tammy who to contact (Hydro company)

#### Kitchener in Blooms

- wants to partner with Community Gardens to promote
- awards night?

#### Update from council

- snail mail (Lynn has no computer availability)

#### Financial Report

- no more cheques. Have 6 cheques free.

#### Requests for a display

- Earth day for City of Waterloo, Greentec fair in Woolwich, Taste of Woolwich

#### Availability of volunteers

- Could have a webpage for events
- Each volunteer puts in their availability on a calendar
- Could use 'Doodle'? a survey engine??

#### Next meeting

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

#### Adjournment

8:36pm