

Community Garden Council Meeting
Minutes (7:00pm January 76, 2016)

Welcome guests: Asha, Richard & Jeff (UW Market garden, Katie (PH Planner)
Present: Jill, Lauren, Susie, Carol, Greg, Eva, Larrissa, Anthony, Jason
Regrets: Jenn, Tammy, Shane

- I. Called to order by Anthony
- II. Approval of last meeting's minutes: approved
- III. Business
 - a. Website Updates:
 - i. Discussed Harshit Jain's request to link jainty@hobbiesphere.com to our website as an educational resource: Anthony did some investigating and suspects internet "farming". Group felt that we should not engage at this time.
 - ii. Garden updates for the website are being requested and will be updated once majority in.
 - b. Garden closures: City allotment – no plan in place for replacing. Baden – land sold. Sara from UW School of Architecture e-mailed their garden will be closing this year
 - c. Garden updates:
 - i. Stanley Park – Dennis states the garden is likely to be started this year. States they are in the process of planning a neighborhood consultation and finding water. Lauren is now working with the City of Kitchener and states the community centre is willing to assist with water. A purpose of the consultation is to develop an understanding that can respond to negative comments
 - ii. Sandhills: Larrissa will be involved with this garden and provided an update – the coop is applying to the city of Kitchener for matched neighborhood funds. Larissa will be volunteering her time to help with the Nutrients for Life project – her role is shifting from a winter kids club and has been delayed.
 - iii. Mount Zion name change in honour of Alfred Brunger, who died in a plane crash this past fall. He was the garden coordinator's husband who contributed a lot of volunteer work to the garden.
 - iv. First Nations garden: Carol approached Richard Myers (name corrected), principal at St Paul's and will be meeting with him to discuss possibilities of linking in with Waterloo Aboriginal Education Centre.
 - v. Recreation Centre located at Father David Baur Road is looking at increasing activities – Greg will attend and suggest community gardens.
 - d. Seedy Sat: Applications are due if we want to attend. Jill and Jenn are interested. They will need a cheque to apply. Cost is \$35 plus 5 for each additional person. Carol recommended that CGC use this platform to promote garden projects more – prepare to speak at the next event in 2018.

Action: Anthony to issue a cheque – it will need another signature. Carol will send an introductory e-mail to Jenn and Jill to coordinate attendance.

- e. Stratford request: Diane McLeod runs a seniors' group and is willing pay an honorarium for someone to speak about starting community gardens or organic gardening. Jill is interested – if she is unavailable, Greg suggests Siobhan might be a good candidate.
Action: Carol to forward information to Jill and if she is not available, Carol will contact Siobhan.
- f. Strategic planning – Katie Mc Donald facilitated a discussion re: school garden plan.

Group Discussion Notes

Which priority should we start with?

- Staff engagement (x6)
 - Including champion identification
- Community partnerships (x4)
 - Volunteers
 - External resources (e.g. staff, business partners)
 - Community centres
 - Neighbourhood associations
 - Private and public partnerships (institutional connections)
- Resources (x2)
 - Funding/ Fundraising
 - Toolkits
 - Tool library
 - Curriculum connections/supports
- Student engagement (x2)
 - Connecting with environmental clubs

Additional comments

- Is community partnership an area of strength/expertise for the group?
- All priorities are connected (e.g. need resources to engage teachers)
- Decided to start with staff engagement

What might staff engagement look like? What actions can we take?

- Overarching principal: Avoid “one-size fits all” approach
- Teacher Resources
 - Link to curriculum (where gardening connects)
 - Mentorship Network with other schools
 - Plan for the summer (caretakers like youth volunteers/staff, community groups)
- Teacher Education: Ignite the teaching base – bring in transformational speakers – get teachers excited about school gardens and provide training/resources on how to start
 - Union education/workshops
 - Engagement on PD days (Contact: Samantha Burns)
- Media-esque
 - Video by a successful teacher (to inspire others)
 - Link with technology/building project
 - Blueprint (guide/process on how to start a school garden)
- Champion/school identification
 - Teacher already involved in food skills work (know what to do with produce, connect with markets, donate, etc..)

- School Champions with gardening skills, environmental clubs
 - Eco-schools
- Student Related
 - Gardening for detention as a means to redirect negative behaviour into positive
 - After School Programs
 - Student Volunteer hours

Next Steps:

- Katie to collate information (included above)
- Carol to invite school garden teachers to the next meeting to discuss teacher engagement.

IV. Recurring business

- a. Financial Report (Lorraine) defer

V. Calendar

- a. Next meeting Feb 21, 2017(3rd Tues)

VI. Adjournment