

COMMUNITY GARDEN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes (7:00pm Apr 18, 2017)

- I. Call to order by Anthony
- II. In attendance: Anthony, Greg, Jill, Eva, Lauren, Carol, Jenn, Mike
- III. Approval of last meeting's minutes: Minutes were approved.
 - a. Update: Carol to meet with Emily re: St John Community Kitchen
 - b. Lee Valley Birdhouse: Mike brought in a sample of the birdhouses built by the students. The structure was solidly built but requires a stake and also there is an expectation that the use of the house will be tracked
Donna from Lee Valley has not supplied much detail re: dates. She will contact the groups who volunteered in May.
- IV. Visitors: Greg and Nicole from Willow Green – Cherry Park
- V. Regrets: Jason
- VI. Business
 - a. Update: Healthy Kids (Jill): Jill attended the meeting. It is confirmed that we got the grant money for 7 elementary schools and indoor grow systems. Other agencies had similar ideas. They joined all the garden projects into one. Rare, House of Friendship and Steckle wanted to upgrade their gardens. Ten new gardens are proposed.
 - b. Update: Letter of support for Trinity Village (Anthony). Letter finalized and sent – no feedback heard from Trinity
 - c. Update: Zoning By-law (Greg): City of Waterloo – bylaw stated no community garden in parks, golf courses, etc., Greg is following
 - d. News: Cambridge rare CG wins Bridge Builder Award (Greg): Rare's Community Roots Foodbank garden grew about 700 lbs of food for the foodbank and they were awarded for their work
 - e. Compost Delivery Planning: The number we can accommodate is 6 gardens.
Anthony will start organizing
 - f. Request: Allotment Gardens, St. Agatha meeting (Carol, Sarah?): City of Kitchener started a neighborhood strategy – neighborhood led approach – top priority identified was community gardens. City is redeveloping its approach. Geographic areas are assigned to Neighborhood Liaison roles. Lauren has the area including Stanley Park. Sarah Anderson has the south west area and is addressing the allotment garden closure

- g. Incorporation information/forms/council roles (Jill). Need 2-3 committed members and their roles to place on the form. Also need a name to register. suggestions included:

- Community Gardens of Waterloo Region

- Community Garden Network Waterloo Region

- Community-Gardens.ca (Domain name for the website)

- Waterloo Region Community Gardens.

- Contacts and roles:

- Anthony/Jill co-chairs

- Jenn treasurer

- Greg/Eva policy

- Secretary (vacant)

- h. Stanley Park Consultation/Objections Apr 20 6:30-8pm (Lauren, Carol, Eva) on starting a garden in Stanley Park. Lauren reported on progress. The organizing group went door to door to invite residents to the consultation. Talked to 40% of houses – lots of positivity. Anticipating few objections

- Carol and Eva will attend to speak to any objections that residents might have against community gardens. Greg cautioned re: one person objecting can shut down the process. The ward councilor, Dave Schneider, is really excited about the project and will be present. Carol and Eva to bring CGC display and will prepare for an informal conversation with the residents.

- i. Council's role in City of Kitchener's development of CGs (Lauren): The city is redeveloping its process re: starting new gardens. Lauren states there is an opportunity to inform the process with community garden council representatives re: focus groups. Council discussed some of the concerns re: communication, democratic vs 1 person constituent opposition in the decision-making, mutual support/dialogue supporting gardens and groups that want to start gardens.

- Action: Send other thoughts to Lauren

- j. Event: Stanley Park Consultation

VII. Recurring business

- a. Financial Report (Lorraine)

VIII. Calendar

- a. Next meeting May 16th (3rd Tues)

IX. Adjournment