

COMMUNITY GARDEN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes (7:00pm May 16, 2017)

- I. Called to order by Anthony
- II. Present: Anthony, Carol, Susie, Nicole, Mike,
- III. Approval of last meeting's minutes – defer no quorum
- IV. Visitors: Dinesh, Anneka. (Anneka has volunteered to be the recorder for council.)
- V. Regrets: Lauren, Jill Absent: Greg, Jason, Laurisa,
- VI. Late Arrival:
- VII. Business
 - a. City of Kitchener streamlining their garden grants (Carol, Lauren)

Carol met with Yvonne Westerveld Cardoso Yvonne discussed the new measures the city is taking with community gardens – City of Kitchener did a neighborhood survey - community gardens was one of the highest ranked community initiatives. She is working on a guide for Kitchener gardens and a process for the garden grants and approval processes. She is also developing a garden guide to help people starting gardens in the City of Kitchener. A community garden plan will be presented to City Council in August.
 - b. Stanley Park and Huron Allotment Garden updates (Carol, Lauren)

Stanley Park is being installed this week. Dennis will provide an update once in the ground. A Huron Park meeting was held to help the displaced gardeners find an alternate site. Sarah Anderson will be working with a group to start a garden on city land behind the John Sweeney Public School. Another group is working out a plan with a chef (Bryan Izzard) to assist with a kids garden for a kids cooking camp he will be offering in exchange for plot on the land he is leasing in St Agatha.
 - c. Water Tower Gardens gets Tree Canada Grant (Carol) Sharron and garden committee was successful in getting a Trees Canada grant of \$1,750 to plant edible trees in their garden – very happy group!
 - d. Artist in Residence Program – Cookbook (Carol) The City of Waterloo's resident artist is working collaboratively to create a community cookbook. Small events about town to be held in parks and community gardens to create art, contribute recipes for the cook book and help build, decorate a series of small free libraries. Katie has been in touch with some of the waterloo gardens and has had a positive reception. For more detail contact Katie Katie.Wilde@waterloo.ca
 - e. Pollen Bee Nest Fundraiser: Jane Binions contacted us to offer a fundraiser for community gardens which includes the Armstrong & Blackbury Solitary Pollen Bee Nest. US based company – bulk orders cost \$260 CDN plus HST per 24 nests. If interested contact jane@pollenbeenest.com. They sell online for \$290.0 US. Members discussed this offer but thought other options for bee nests were less costly (e.g. scrap wood with drilled bee openings) and doubted there would be a market for the product.

- f. Arvato offer to donate (Carol) Susan Littwiller from Arvato called and offered to donate their profits from a company plant sale to a local environmental group and enquired if Community Garden Council was interested. However, as we are not a registered NFP we likely would not qualify. I told her about the school garden project and as Seeds of Diversity is registered she was excited about becoming involved with the school garden project. She requires a promotional piece about the project by May 19th.
- g. City of Kitchener policy proposals (Greg) - defer
- h. Compost Delivery Report (Anthony) Anthony organized the compost delivery this year. Compost was taken to 6 gardens (Willow Green, Cherry Park, St Agnus, Ecole Harmonie, Eastbridge and Brighton). They were each charged \$120.00 which covered the cost of the truck and gave some surplus. Anthony needs to connect with Lorraine/Greg to deposit the cheques.
- i. Horticultural Society Meeting: Carol attended as well as Nicoae from urban forestry - James Graham presented on Community Gardens. Over 100 people were in attendance.
- j. Event: Climate Conversations Panel and Dinner, May 27 (Carol)
Divest Waterloo is partnering with Transition KW and other local groups to host a community dinner that will focus on food and climate change and we are hoping that one of your members might be able join us to participate in a panel discussion. The dinner will be on May 27th at St. John's the Evangelist Anglican Church (23 Water St. North, Kitchener).

Action: Volunteer needed, if interested contact Laura Hamilton at laura@divestwaterloo.ca.

- k. Event: Health Kids Community Challenge: Jill was hired by Seeds of Diversity to coordinate the project. A call out to schools was sent out to the Public School Boards and interested schools. Jill needs to send to the Catholic school board. Jill is requesting volunteers to form a working group for the site selection and overall planning. She is also recruiting volunteers for the garden installation. As this project requires a fast turn around time, input will need to be prompt.

Action: Interested volunteers for garden builds or planning workgroup to contact Jill at byers.jill@gmail.com

- l. Event: Future of Environment David Suzuki/Blue Dot Event Jun 4 1-3pm (Carol) Waterloo region blue Dot is hosting an event June 4 from 1-3 pm and are inviting CGC to have a display – no cost. Interested contact Kerry kerryemueller@gmail.com or Bianca dreyer.bianca@gmail.com

Action: Susie and Mike volunteered to attend. **Carol** to forward information

- m. Garden Updates:
 - i. Anneka is volunteering with the Hacienda garden – some planting has started
 - ii. Mike has a plant sale this Thursday and Friday at KCI. The student were trying to incubate eggs but they didn't hatch (very disappointed). Mike bought eggs/chick from Elmira and the student were happy with them. The school garden has quite a bit of shade so they are still working at getting plants to grow.
 - iii. Nicole is the communication contact for the Willow Green gardens. She is working on a communication plan.

- iv. Anthony reminded the group that Little City Farmer will be having a plant sale this weekend. (Annual Heirloom Seedling Sale Saturday, May 20, 2017 from 11 am-2 pm)

VIII. Recurring business

- a. Financial Report (Lorraine) defer. Jenn has volunteered to take treasurer role. Issue of bank's high charge for cheques discussed

Action: Jenn will contact PC and Tangerine Banking to see if they will cover community groups/Not-for-profits. Once we are incorporated it should be easier to find a bank that cover NFP's. Aneka may consider helping the group with the incorporation process as she will be studying nonprofits for her Master's degree.

IX. Calendar

- a. Next meeting Jun 20th (3rd Tues). Miranda Bird from the City of Kitchener is helping facilitate the community engagement aspect of the City of Kitchener's Sustainable Urban Forestry program. She would like to bring awareness of the project whilst collecting ideas and feedback from the community (website, Kitchener.ca/trees) and would like to consult with our group to provide feedback for the strategy. It would take 15-20 minutes.

Action: Anthony will notify her of our upcoming meeting

X. Adjournment