

Community Garden Council
Minutes (June 20, 2017)

1.0 Call to Order by Anthony

2.0 Present: Anthony, Jason, Mike, Nicole, Lauren, Siyoung, Jill, Carol, Anneka

3.0 Minutes approved – seconded by Jason

4.0 Visitors: Yvonne, Josh

5.0 Regrets: Susie, Jen. Absent: Greg, Minae, Eva, Shane (on leave)

6.0 Business

a. City of Kitchener tree-related project (Yvonne, Carol)

Miranda sends regrets – she thought the meeting was on Monday and came but no one was there. Yvonne distributed bookmarks. Bookmarks give links and key dates of what to look for. See <http://www.kitchener.ca/en/livinginkitchener/UrbanForestry.asp> Members from the council are invited to participate in the survey about Kitchener trees. Miranda would like to come in September to get ideas and input. Might be opportunities and partnership she'd like to explore. Group was in agreement to have Miranda return in September.

b. City of Kitchener Community Garden Project update (Yvonne)

The City of Kitchener surveyed residents about what they would like to see in their neighborhoods. Yvonne had requested to have questions concerning community gardens included but the survey questions were broader. The results returned and Community gardens ranked #1 topic Yvonne states there is a lot involved to facilitate process- trying to streamline as much as possible. Hope to present in Fall to city council- will get website updated, create guide of easy steps, include as part of Neighbourhood Strategy, template of interventions.. She now needs to ask for input into the strategy and would like to get community garden questions on survey. Several questions were explored as to how the city could get input:

- Return to community garden council meeting - the group meets third Tuesday of the month, meetings are open
- Joint workshop: Josh would like to host workshop with CGC early September – We could collaborate on event or meet and greet as opportunity to talk about the project. Unfortunately the timing is too early for the garden council's annual meeting.
- online survey to gardeners with questions of experiences. The garden council can assist with contacting the garden coordinators
- Create separate working group to work with Josh and Yvonne- Carol to email garden coordinators for creating subcommittee.
- Survey themes - Gardens on private property are coming up as a theme. Food related or pollinator and other gardens? Mostly food, but some are incorporating pollinators.
Carol: Beneficial to have skill building for garden coordinators.

c. HKCC Grant Update (Jill) Jill has been working on the storytelling and school gardens. 4 schools needed to apply, got 7 applications and all were approved. Waiting to hear back about site visits, determining whether want they want cheques or if they want Jill to put in the garden.

- d. Arvato donation (Jill) Jill doesn't know how much and haven't sent it yet. Donate from plant sales to add onto HKCC Grant.
- e. Storytelling 3 videos (Jill) Jill has made arrangements with Conestoga to do the video taping. She has 3 themes; engaging teachers and community partners, children eating healthy, easy to put in a garden. Might be room for a fourth. Jill welcomes ideas.
- f. City of Waterloo Bylaw Review – defer until Greg returns
- g. Artist in Residence (Carol, Jason) Artist shows up and teaches different kinds of art at community gardens with walking tour of the garden. Didn't have anyone at the last event- one reason could be lack of advertising. A new person has been recruited to work on the mailchimp newsletter – (SiYoung) to help with advertising for events like this. Minae is coordinating Facebook – information and events should be sent to her.
- h. Compost update (Anthony) There were problem with finances. Anthony did get reimbursement. Plus he will arrange another load of compost for new garden in Waterloo.
- i. Facebook page at Willow Green (Nicole) Communications person for garden working out well and they have had two potluck dinners. Overall, they are seeing a change and Facebook has been useful. Community garden inspections from the garden committee- how to handle it? Clean up deposit.
- j. Blue Dot event (Mike) Not a lot of people because it was a nice day. Talked about what we do and the network. Gave out handouts and referred people to website. Overall, good event and was worthwhile. Carol has received some subscriptions to the newsletter from the website.
- k. Garden updates
 - Lauren: Stanley Park garden – in the ground, but no water. Lauren has created transition plan. They are accepting registrations at the Community association. Carol will post garden on website and send referrals. Fee will be \$10 this season instead of \$25 because late into the season. They will be getting a water line from the city; for now temporarily getting water from winter rink. Lauren has a new job at City of Kitchener as Neighbourhood Liaison.
 - Jill: has been hired to coordinate the school garden project by Seeds of Diversity and will continue landscaping.
 - Mike: KCI had a plant sale with lots of plants left over – Mike donated to garden in the area.
 - Jason: Still organizing UW Blooms, giveaway of garden stuff. Reminder to connect in may.
 - Anneka: Volunteers at Hacienda. CSA shares starting this week still have room. Suggestions were made for Anneka to post on website blog www.community-gardens.ca or facebook.
 - Nicole: sits on another board that is concerned with gardening and human rights, particularly people with disabilities. List of gardens with raised beds? Carol will connect with Nicole

7.0 Meeting adjourned