

Community Garden Council

Meeting Notes

June 16, 2015

Present: Lauren, Donna, Jill, Anthony, Carol

Absent: Eva, Shane, Jeremy, Jason, Greg, Lorraine

Quorum: No 5 present; 6 absent

1.0 Minutes: No revisions forwarded with exception to April 21 which was corrected.

1. April 21 minutes approved as corrected
2. May 19 minutes approved

Action: Lauren to post minutes

2.0 Community Garden Website: A summer student, Joel, has been working with Stephanie and Carol to create an evaluation survey to go out to garden coordinators and their gardeners. The survey cleared Public Health Ethics Review. Lauren shared that when she Googled the account, the website doesn't come up. We need to get more traffic on the new site. Jill shared that once we are a registered charity, we can use Google ads to get our information to rise to the top. Also, we can list Amazon books and get a commission on the books that sell.

Action: Anthony to check into the Together4Health site and google

3.0 Welcome to Donna: Donna is a new member who will represent Willow Green. Donna was a previous council member.

4.0 Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF): Carol shared the foundation underwent a model shift – focus on impacts versus outputs: how lives are improved as a result of investment. They have four investment streams:

1. Seed grants: new projects, projects at the conceptual/idea stage \$5,000 to 75,000
2. Grow grants: ramping up existing programs that are evidence based \$50,000 – 250,000 over 2-3 years
3. Capital grants: enhance community spaces, making spaces accessible, energy efficient, enhanced technology, can buy land and build \$5,000 to \$150,000
4. Collective impact grants: This is a collective strategy to deal with a complex issue; significant involvement for lasting change.

It is based on the Canadian Index of Wellbeing investment in people in 6 key domains: Active people, Connecting people, Green people, Inspired people, Prosperous people, and Promising young people. Eligible applicants are registered charities, incorporated Not for Profits, Metis/Aboriginal, a municipality with a population under 20,000 or a collaboration under a lead organization. The service must be in Ontario and comply with all legislation.

5.0 School Scan Update: A second draft has been created and underwent a Public Health ethics review. Allison will incorporate the recommended changes.

Action: Carol to circulate the final draft of the report to the working group and committee once complete.

6.0 **Community Garden Waiver Form:** Minor changes were recommended.

Action: Jill to circulate final draft of waiver once complete.

7.0 **Summer Event; Free Yoga in the Park:** As “Yoga in the Park” is a successful event, Jill proposed hosting a yoga session in a garden. She has discussed the possibilities with the yoga instructor who organises it. It would cost between 60-80 dollars for an instructor – they would help with advertisement. CGC could use the money gained from the compost delivery to pay for the costs. The event could be promoted through e-mail, events page on the website and the mailchimp newsletter. Many of the gardens now have facebook so it might be a good idea to resurrect or create a new facebook page for the council.

Action: Carol to forward some contacts for gardens that have enough green space. Jill will contact Lorraine to look into funds. Question if Jason is interested in resurfacing our facebook page.

8.0 **Fall Event:** Discussion re: having an educational event at Salvation Army. The idea is good but if Multicultural group is already doing an event in the fall, we did not want to compete with it and a partnership would be better.

Action: Anthony will contact Emily.

9.0 **Garden Updates:**

1. Preston Water Tower: The group received \$3,000.00 from Evergreen to complete the rest of the garden build. Home Depot volunteer building of the shed is complete. A garden opening will likely occur in September.
2. Willow Green Extension Garden: The group looked into renting a water pump but it cost too much. The city is not able to help – they are not providing water via a neighbour to new gardens (The original four gardens will continue to get water as long as a neighbor is willing to provide it). Gardens in open space have difficulty harvesting water. The Guelph Street garden built an rain water harvesting system but were able to get funds to build it. Donna asked if CGC could advocate for access to water for the gardens that need it.

Action: Jill will see if her company could donate a water pump. Defer advocacy for water for Greg’s return.

10.0 **Incorporation discussion: Do we want to pursue incorporation by recruiting someone to help us?**

Steps:

1. Begin with name search, bylaws and letter articles
2. Federal or provincial application
3. Select board members – current members until vote at AGM.
 - a. Must have > 3 people who are not related
 - b. Board elected by membership
 - c. More effort needed for recruitment and reference checks
4. Annual declaration

What do we need?

- Financial person – Jill will contact an accountant
- Motivation
- A lawyer – contacts on Gil’s list
- Grant writer – Carol has some experience

- Board selection process – promote with Good Work Canada, FSRT, Volunteer Agency, Manulife
- We will likely need a partner until we are able to incorporate. Introduce ourselves: Community garden council members who help support/promote community gardens throughout the Region. Ask if they are able to sponsor non-incorporated community groups. Describe who we are and state we are interested in partnering

Likely partners and who will ask:

- The Working Centre – Lauren
- Grans River Conservation – Jill
- Sustainable Waterloo Region – Anthony
- Social Planning Councils – Carol
- House of Friendship – Jill/Lauren
- Foodbanks – Carol

Pro's	Con's	Requirements
Opens new doors	How much work is it?	Membership of CGN/CGC (more formal)
Increases capacity to help gardens	Current capacity of CGC	Must have an Annual General Meeting
Finding a partner -easier	Ineligibles – no criminal record	Invest into recruitment and screening of board
Some liability coverage for council members	CGN membership official	Ensure public benefits 1 of 3 – poverty, education, community
Gil has contacts who does this	Can't benefit personally	Must have by-laws and letters patent – gvt; governing rules – already have terms of Reference
Becomes a separate legal entity	Must keep adequate books/records	Must file financial statements – T3011.
Property belongs to the corporation (council)	Continue to fund raise for overhead - grants	Possible audits – need a external auditor
Can issue receipts – tax exempt	Tax returns/lawyers	Must inform gvt – directorate of charities of any changes
	Fee for membership – may lose members	

Next Meeting: August 18 – NO JULY MEETING