

COMMUNITY GARDEN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes (7:00pm May 17, 2016)

Present: Lauren, Lorraine, Anthony, Susie, Donna, Jill, Shane, Tammy, Greg
Regrets : Jason

- I. Called to order by Anthony
- II. Approval of last meeting's minutes: Anthony moved that all minutes for the past 3 months be approved. Jill seconded. All in favor
- III. Business
 - a. Update: Compost delivery (Shane, Anthony): Shane rode the truck on delivery day (Thanks-you Shane). Anthony reported on the compost delivery many obstacles experienced:
 - one garden cancelled their order 2 days before delivery. Fortunately, another garden was substituted with that order and the compost delivery (EMS garden).
 - Our usual "16 cu yds" truck with the divider caught fire while in repairs. Replacement truck was 30 cu m – bonus for the gardens receiving a load this year!
 - The truck was unable to unload at the Patchworks garden on its first rounds as the lot was full of cars – so they delivered the other load first and fortunately, the cars had cleared by the time they got back for the second load.
 - Jim Z. called from landfill asking if we took 5 loads – we only had 3. There was some confusion as City of Kitchener ordered compost for their gardens – this took some time to sort out.
 - Queens Greens unloading zone was difficult to get into.
 - The cost for renting the truck was \$ 648.00 (bigger truck) we received revenue of \$ 600 which left us with a shortfall of \$48.00
 - Willow Green wanted to order this year but did not get the e-mail.Action: Carol to check into the issue. Advised Donna they can still get compost if they want to pick it up just let Carol or Anthony know to give Jim at the landfill a heads-up
 - b. Website comments (discussion)
 - Tabs should be all titles with drop downs - consistentChange title Garden locations and make it a drop-down subtitle. Have something like "Join a Garden" Add a brief description of how to join a garden:
Join a community garden close to you can sometimes be a challenge! Each garden is run locally so you need to contact the garden coordinator to see if there is a plot available. If the garden is full, ask the coordinator to place your name on a waiting list. As soon as a plot becomes available, the coordinator will contact you in order of placement on the list. Each garden has its own administration and needs which affects the cost to its gardeners.

Each garden will have its own agreements and fees to join. To find a garden close by, see our map (link to map). To find out details about each garden, see Garden Locations (link to)

- On the map, for each location bubble, link to the garden description. Some garden descriptions and contacts are outdated (Rosanne is working on updates)
- Start or Run a Garden –
 - o Under accessible gardens – change the “Preston Community Garden” to the correct garden and link it (Water Tower Gardens)
 - o Under sample forms move our local forms to the top – they are listed as “for further sample forms” Change to Samples of local garden forms
- About Us - Move the statement to the top – maybe just after the mission statement with a contact link.

“The Community Garden Council meets the third Tuesday of every month except for July and sometimes August or December (add). Our meetings are open to the public. Please visit the Council Minutes page to view previous meeting notes.”

- Check out links – some are not working, example:
 - o Accessible garden link not active City of Vancouver Accessible Community Garden Guidelines,
 - o unclear as to why this link is there <https://www.christopherreeve.org/blog>
 - o School garden Nourishing the Planet in the 21st Century: Plant Science Curriculum for Middle and High Schools (Alberta)
 - o Nutrition Tools for Schools changed to <http://brightbites.ca/wp-content/uploads/School-Gardens.pdf> action guide not there
 - o School Garden Wizard – add learn in the garden has a link to lesson plans and a proposal guide for curriculum based learning
 - o Links – some links not working e.g. School Food Gardens in Ontario: Educating for Health and Sustainability – School based topics should go on the school garden page with the local information at the top
- Get connected
 - o volunteer– some administrator blocks popup when you click on the links
 - o blog – add info re: garden plots availability
 - o Events – have the calendar as the opening page with links to event details
- have a page linking to grants and or other resources

Action: Members to provide further feedback as needed. Carol to forward to Stephanie who volunteered to make the changes

- C. School board meeting: Carol shared that a meeting was called by Superintendent Peter Rubenshuh with school teachers to discuss school gardens. The inclusion of school gardens into school environment menu sounds promising. This may take some time to

put in place. Teachers discussed their obstacles mostly and the importance of having school gardens supported at the administration level.

Obstacles experienced – teachers are doing these gardens on their own time, they do not have the time to search for correlating curriculum links and create activities/lesson plans based on the Ontario Curriculum. A good school based resource found is the foundation “Nutrients for Life” (<https://www.nutrientsforlife.ca/> - note they are sponsored by Fertilizer Canada). They have curriculum for high school grades and are currently linking gardens to provincial curriculum. They also offer educational workshops and school based grants. The other obstacle is summer maintenance. Greg put forward the idea of having school horticulturists who could be available to schools.

d. Garden updates (Carol)

- i. 233 Franklin Street: Senior’s resident called and wants to start a garden for the senior’s residents. Support and resource guides supplied. They plan to meet next week.
- ii. Sandhills – Carol talked to Nutrients for Life re: possibility of accessing funds for a community group (normally only donate to school gardens). They said they would be able to help the group to restore their garden and assist setting up a youth gardening/environmental club. At a previous meeting residents were not very hopeful in being able to keep the garden but were energetic at the idea of involving youth in the garden and starting a youth club for gardens.

- e. News: Kitchener/Cambridge reviewing chicken by-laws (Carol) City of Kitchener surveying residents re: position on keeping hens in the city. People can provide input even if not from Kitchener. Also, Heidi Wall who was made to give up her hens or face \$5,000.00 in fines has started a petition and has 1,373 signatures. Link is <https://zemail.change.org/p/kitchener-city-council-amend-the-animal-control-by-law-to-allow-for-hens/u/11399143>

IV. Recurring business

- a. Financial Report (Lorraine) Lorraine states we are running out of cheques and the bank wants to charge about \$70 to issue new ones. Anthony has two cheques on hand. Lorraine suggested changing banks. Greg volunteered to try to negotiate with the current bank.
Balance is 440.84 cents with the compost fees deducted

V. Calendar

- a. Next meeting Jun 21st (3rd Tues). Members were interested in a social function.

VI. Adjournment