

Community Garden Council Meeting Minutes (7:00pm Jan 15, 2013)

- I. **Call to order** by Anthony
- II. **Approval of last meeting's minutes:**
 - a. Revisions: remove last names.
Action: send amended minutes to Anthony to post.
 - b. Business from: Anthony contacted Greg re: our input to City of Kitchener letter.
- III. **Visitor business** (introduce visitors: Heather, Lining, Jeremy, Harriet & Christina)
- IV. **Business**
 - a. **Problems with the grant approval process in Kitchener and Cambridge**
(Greg, Heather)
 - i. Kitchener: Heather is applying for funding from the city for a new garden start-up in Eastbridge neighborhood. She has the support of the Victoria Hills Community Centre. She has noted the in-kind portion of the grant has increased while the cash amount decreased. She states it is not enough to buy the needed garden tools/shed. A suggestion is to apply for TD Friends of the Environment in March. She has been trying to engage the city for a new garden over the past 2 years. She calls for a fair and open process. Greg did send a letter to the appropriate city personnel but has not received a reply. This lack of communication and transparency presents barriers to people willing to volunteer their time in setting up gardens. The second issue of coordinator contract will be going to city council this spring. Heather has stepped down as coordinator at the Victoria Hills garden.
Action: Heather will send a copy of her application for Anthony to post on the web once approved by the city.
 - ii. Cambridge: copies of their community garden policy/grant were circulated. The policy has some restrictions but the broad language used in these cases is helpful. The 100 m distance from residential buildings remains.
Action: Greg to contact city staff.
 - b. **Compost Deliveries** – fair mechanism for amount that can be delivered is needed. We have not set-up a process yet and do not yet know cost etc...

- c. **Acknowledgement of Lynn Weiss' passing** (Dec 19); card (Carol, Anthony). It is with deep regret we note the passing of our long time garden colleague and member, Lynn. A card was circulated and discussion held re: appropriate memorial item.
Action: Carol to follow
- d. **Accessible garden update** (Carol, Anthony) Anthony provided an update. Two of the gardens sites are either nearly finished or completed. We hired a landscape design architect for the creation of designs and a project coordinator to oversee the build. An application has been sent to Home Depot Waterloo to complete the installation of the raised garden beds. Carol is working with the Preston groups to gain additional funds for the non-accessible part of their garden start-up and we have applied to Home/Team Depot for support. They will likely also apply to TD Friends. With Chandler Mowat, we have hit a snag with the slope of the pathway going into the garden being too steep in places – when the garden applied it did meet standards but those standards have been amended. We do not have enough money to correct the slope and build the garden. The garden plan was presented to the Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee (GRAAC) as requested by the City of Kitchener. GRAAC recommends we build the garden.
- e. **Garden updates:**
- i. The Cambridge Self Help Food Bank garden on Franklin is closing. The food bank disengaged last year leaving a core of gardeners. The landowner plans to build on the site and has indicated the garden will have to go. Carol has contacted the City of Cambridge to see what help/support can be given to help the gardeners relocate. She has not heard back from them.
 - ii. Lang's Farm is looking into starting a garden on their new site. Christina is exploring
 - iii. The City of Kitchener called a meeting between the two groups (Wasan from Multicultural Centre and Doug/Albert from the Cedar Hill Association) vying for the same garden site at the former Cedar Hill water tower). Doug states the meeting went very well.
 - iv. The Salvation Army garden: The garden will have 100 garden plots available this year (15'x15'). Twenty plots will be rented by the Horticultural Society for children. The garden has 60% gardeners return; 20% new gardeners. Twenty plots are still available.

- f. **Seedy Saturday;** The Kitchener Horticultural Association is hosting this event in partnership with Kitchener Public Library on Sat Feb 23 @ KPL's Country Hills Branch 9:30am-2:30pm. Carol submitted an application for a display and also offered to speak about the multicultural project.
 - g. **Formal approval of TOR** Anthony: The meeting time will have to be amended – suggest wording like meetings will occur once a month. Greg asks the membership conduct segment be amended.
Action: Greg and Jason will propose an amendment.
 - h. **Upcoming Calendar of Events that CGC will attend:** A calendar was circulated with events listed. CGC volunteers are needed to attend these events. Anthony will attend Taste of Woolwich. UW Blooms will take place. A foraging walk will be investigated for the spring.
 - i. **KPL workshop planning:** Food System Roundtable KPL event has not been explored. Jeremy and Harriet are looking to host a series of gardener workshops. Possibilities of a partnership were discussed. Jeremy is interested in the event coordination role with CGC. Harriet also wants to continue attending council meetings.
Action: A workshop planning committee will be organized. Carol to add Harriet to the CGC council listserv.
 - j. **Tour of Good Earth (Carol).** Interested members toured the Good Earth garden site.
- V. Recurring business
- a. Financial Report (Lorraine) - defer
- VI. Calendar
- a. Next meeting Feb 19th (3rd Tues)
- VII. Adjournment