

## COMMUNITY GARDEN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes (7:00pm Feb 19, 2013)

**Present:** Judy, Krista, Laura, Jeremy, Tammy, Anthony, Dharia, Carol

**Regrets:** Cristina, Lorraine, Jason, Greg, Alisa

- I. Meeting called to order by Anthony
- II. Approval of last meeting's minutes: Minutes were approved
- III. Garden updates:

Dharia: Hacienda Garden plans to start a CSA. The greenhouse is planning to incorporate aquaponic's

Laura: Laura is starting up a community garden on her family farm close to Baden. Five people have signed up. They will offer workshops to complement the garden.

Jeremy: Public Health has offered a student placement which fits well with the garden event coordinator role.

Tammy: The Conestoga College garden is located at the Cambridge site.

- IV. **Visitor business:** Welcome Krista and Judy

- V. **Business**

- a. **Community Garden Story Telling Project Update:** Judy

The story telling began as a part of the Ontario Trillium Foundation evaluation requirements but has broadened into three separate components. The Story-telling component was reviewed. The purpose of this project is to express the value of community gardens to decision-makers and to advocate for gardens

There were two stages of data collection: 1. Exploratory interviews, 2. Approaching people in the gardens – 84 interviews were completed. Review of the data revealed three main themes – inclusion, health and learning. The next steps will be to do an analysis of challenges and suggestions. Judy will be making a poster presentation at a Public Health conference in April. Council suggests the poster be made into a display board that can be added to the Community Garden display.

Judy is working with a digital media producer to write-up the stories.

- b. **Accessible Garden Build Update (Krista)**

Krista was hired for the project coordination of the accessible garden builds.

Trinity: 90% complete. Home Depot to build the top of the pergola

Good Earth: 95% complete. Issue of water excess is related to the fact Helmutz is not finished with the grading. The raised beds are not finished. They received \$2,500 from Home Depot and have applied to the City of Waterloo for matched funds to complete the beds.

Chandler Mowat: Met with the city last week and felt more positive about the outcomes. The biggest concern was the pathway which can be modified within budget. Next step is to have GRAAC approve the modified design. The work should be on target by the end of April.

Preston Heights: Have a scaled design that is on target with the accessible build quote.

**C. Community Garden Advocacy Recommendations (Krista)**

Krista provided the background context. The Food System Roundtable received funding through the Healthy Communities Partnership to advocate for a healthy food system. The group decided to prioritize efforts towards two of their six priority areas; urban agriculture and temporary neighborhood markets. Krista has been looking at land use policies and zoning since December, as well as best practices in surrounding areas e.g., Ottawa, Owen Sound. The thought is that Krista will help leverage the work already done by Greg and the garden council.

Next steps: The Food System Roundtable (FSRT) of whom Greg is a member, will host a meeting with community service staff and municipal councilors to talk about what was discovered and appeal for a stronger coordinated effort in support of community gardens. The council talked about how the story telling project could fit into this meeting. The problem is that the funding may not be available if the meeting is delayed. She recommends it is best to go while the still have funding.

Krista has been invited to a human services advisory committee and will have an opportunity to provide quotes/examples. She will talk to Greg as he has already been talking to them.

If you have interested in finding out more, contact Krista at [kristalong@rogers.com](mailto:kristalong@rogers.com).

**d. Community Garden Compost Spring Delivery (Anthony,Carol)**

Anthony discussed some of the issues of compost delivery. We had more orders than what we could manage as well as problems during the delivery e.g., school locked down and truck breakdown. Gardens will be encouraged to go and pick-up their own compost. All they need is to call Jim Zarycki ahead of time and provide proof they are a community garden (a copy of

their garden description – a letter from council). They will need to bring their shovels and load the compost into their own containers.

We will offer delivery to gardens that did not get a delivery last year. Anthony will look into the cost of delivery and we will add 5% to the amount to be charged to cover our costs. We will have to have and cash cheques on the deadline.

**e. Public Health Student Placement Introduction and Learning Goals (Jeremy)**

Jeremy reviewed the mission and goals of his student placement at Public Health. The garden council felt these goals are too ambitious for the amount of time Jeremy has in his placement. Jeremy will revise his learning goals. Garden council members suggested Jeremy might want to talk to Meg & Kim as they will be going into schools and are already developing curriculum. Langs Farm is providing cultural cooking classes. Angie Koch is a good resource.

**f. Inquiry about Garden Startups; Timelines and Tasks (Cristina) Defer**

**g. CGC exhibit in Toronto? Professional Human Ecology Conference, Mar 23, UT (Cristina)**

**VI. Recurring business**

**a. Financial Report (Lorraine) Balance \$402.78**

**VII. Calendar**

**a. Next meeting Mar 19th (3<sup>rd</sup> Tues) at 99 Regina St S Wloo 7 p.m.**

**VIII. Adjournment : 2050 hrs**