

## Community Garden Council Meeting Minutes (7:00pm Mar 19, 2013)

Present: Cristina, Darija, Michelle, Carol, Greg, Anthony

Absent: Alisa, Tammy, Jason, Lorraine

- I. Called to order by Anthony
- II. Approval of last meeting's minutes: reviewed & approved
  - a. Terms of Reference Amendment (Greg, Jason): Jason's comments were reviewed. Greg had a submission which covered many of Jason's comments. The submission was discussed and agreed upon.  
**Action:** Anthony to post
- III. Visitor business (introduce visitors)
- IV. Business
  - a. Endorse the Waterloo Region Food Charter: (Greg): The Local Food charter will bring local food into the mainstream of decision and form making. The Regional Official Plan was a good start but now we are trying to make a healthy climate for local food. The Food System Roundtable will be taking the food charter to Regional council April 9<sup>th</sup> and is requesting that individuals and groups give their endorsement before then. Michelle will ask 7<sup>th</sup> line farm to endorse. Cristina volunteered to promote amongst King St Restaurants.  
Greg moved that the Community Garden Council endorse it. Seconded by Cristina. All were in favor. A question was asked about abstainers? Zero abstainers. Motion adopted.  
**Action:** Anthony to endorse online.
  - b. City of Kitchener liability request from coordinators (Carol): Carrie is taking over the coordination of Victoria Hills Community Garden. As of last year she was asked to sign a contract which made the signatory liable for injury and death. Greg and Heather have supported her in advocating for changes to this approach. She has recently been in touch with the city solicitor, Cory Shantz who will be forwarding a proposal that the liability for injury and death clause be removed and a waiver be signed by the gardeners. She is looking for sample gardener waiver statements.
  - c. Community Garden Compost Spring Delivery Update (Anthony):  
Anthony sent out a notice for woodchips earlier as the hydro companies are busy cutting right now and the orders are filled according to closeness to the place of cutting and first ask first serve. Anthony has sent an e-mail for compost orders. The cost will be \$90.00 for 8 cu ft. Due to volume of orders and our limited capacity is one day of delivery, the number of deliveries will be capped.  
**Action:** Anthony will take orders/cheques and will ride the truck day of delivery.

- d. Community Garden Event Calendar and requests to attend: Carol circulated an event calendar and outlined the requests below. Volunteers will be needed to attend the events.
- i. Emergency Preparedness Expo, LDS Church, May 11, 10am-2pm
  - ii. Earth Day Event, May 4, 10am-2pm, Laurelwood Conservation
  - iii. Waterloo Horticultural Society, Apr 26, 7-9pm, Adult Recreation Centre
  - iv. Kitchener Sustainability, Apr 20, 10am-4pm, Kitchener City Hall. Greg volunteered to attend
  - v. Kitchener Employee Wellness Fair April 17<sup>th</sup>, Kitchener City Hall

Community by Design April 17, Regional Council Chambers, 150 Frederick St, Kitchener: 8:30 – 3:30 pm: Members are welcome to attend this forum for sharing research and best practices for healthy eating and active living. Lunch and refreshments included – RSVP March 25<sup>th</sup> to [skteileh@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:skteileh@regionofwaterloo.ca) 519-883-2004 ext. 5296

Michelle raised her objection to CGC involvement at the LDS event. She has submitted this quote for the purpose of the minutes:

“I have concerns about CGC attendance at events that have religious grounds, for example the LDS (Church of the Latter Day Saints) Emergency Preparedness event on May 11.

“Among other LDS beliefs is the one that the Apocalypse will come to the world. LDS adherents must be ready for the Apocalypse via Emergency Preparedness. Only adherence to the Church of the LDS will guarantee survival of LDS members via Emergency Preparedness.

“Because the CGC is an inclusive organization for the council, coordinators, network, and gardeners, in terms of class, gender, age, culture, language, sexual orientation and religious beliefs, etc., I feel that it is important for the council to review the issue of involvement in church-sponsored events of all religious backgrounds.

“I would like the CGC to draft a proposal regarding involvement in and/or association with church-sponsored events to become part of our Terms of Reference.

“I will not be attending the May 11 Church of Latter Day Saints Emergency Preparedness event, and do not condone the council’s association in any other church-related events

until we come up with a clear policy regarding such association in our Terms of Reference.

“Thanks to the council members who discussed their opinions on this issue with me during this month’s council meeting, and previously, by email.”

Discussion followed:

- CGC’s practice for requests at events has been to post the request and if a volunteer stepped forward, they would take the display and attend
- CGC has been to several faith events and has not based the decision on its organizational beliefs – many churches have apocalyptic views. Many other religions have beliefs about the fate of the faithful/unfaithful
- Many gardens are located on different church lands and gardeners do not have to belong to the church to garden
- CGC members of said faith may feel unwelcome at CGC meetings with these discussions. We have had past members of that faith and different faiths on council and they never used their position to push their faith
- CGC has valued inclusion in all its activities and its not logical to now be exclusive
- CGC could have some guidelines for decision making such as “Is this space/event open to all?”
- Many other organizations have a “non-affiliation” statement like “CGC does not have any political, religious or corporate ties”
- CGC must abide by the Ontario Human Rights code
- Some people could see the perspective that attendance at like events might appear to endorse a particular view or religion

**Actions:**

Greg will draft an affiliation statement to include in the Terms of Reference which can be posted at all events and on the website. He will also draft a set of guiding principles which are inclusive.

Carol will get Public Health’s position on the issue.

Anthony to address in next meeting;

Michelle is asking for a vote on each of the following items:

- Adoption of the terms of reference affiliation statement/ guiding principles
- Decision to attend the LDS event manned or unmanned
- Adoption of a general statement to post at all events

- V. Wilfred Laurier Sustainability Coordinator: Greg shared a story of how the coordinator prevented the university from paving over green space that a community garden was located on. Greg suggested a letter of support.
- VI. Recurring business
  - a. Financial Report (Lorraine) Defer
- VII. Calendar
  - a. Next meeting Apr 16th (3<sup>rd</sup> Tues)
- VIII. Adjournment