

COMMUNITY GARDEN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes (7:00pm June 18, 2013)

- I. Called to order by Anthony
- II. Approval of last meeting's minutes (May 21, 2013): Reviewed and approved.
 - a. Business from Minutes: May event went well. Thank-you cards were circulated for signatures. Some garden coordinator certificates of appreciation still need to be distributed. Volunteers offered to deliver some.
- III. Visitor business (introduce visitors – defer as not here)
 - a. Emily (Multicultural Garden Network) & Megan (Working Centre))
- IV. Business
 - a. Present findings on questionnaire about garden education (Jeremy):
Jeremy did a placement at ROWPH and conducted a survey asking for capacities and needs of gardens for educational sessions. He distributed copies of his report and reviewed his findings. Overall there is some capacity of gardens to assist with educational workshops: space, kitchen, garden expertise and there is an apparent need for gardener education as stated by garden coordinators.
 - b. Jeremy is partnering with Emily Cho (Multicultural Garden Project) and Megan Herod (Working Centre) to offer an educational series. (Salvation Army has a kitchen for the preserves workshop). Jeremy asks for help promoting the series and help with identifying topics and speakers: e.g., How to maximize garden produce in small plots, succession gardening – good resource: Bountiful garden
 - c. New Garden Updates (Carol)
 - i. Tom is starting a UW garden @ St Jeromes – gardening started
 - ii. Michelle – a youth garden @ Lutherwood – exploring for next year
 - iii. Carrie – Village on the Green – exploring
 - iv. Dan Glen Graham – Uniroyal Park site going
 - v. Matthew - Exploring a foodbank garden – linked with Allister @ rare
 - vi. Trish- exploring a @ Dumfries Conservation area
 - vii. Langs – found a garden coordinator

- a. Media Coverage (Carol): Katherine & Carol were on Rogers Daytime. The Elmira Observer (Elena Maystruk, June 8th edition) gave community gardens about \$1,500.00 worth of free coverage with a story promoting community gardens in the Townships.
 - b. Diggables Update (Anthony): Anthony provided a presentation for the Board of Health (which is Regional Council). A garden story video brought a lot of interest.
 - c. Certificates (Carol): Need some help to distribute certificates – personal delivery might be nice. Carol has already delivered a few. Council members volunteered to deliver some in their area.
 - d. Gardens: anyone familiar with gardens and contaminated soil?(Carol): Eby Village is a new garden this year. They have done considerable work with container gardening but the landscaper advised them to assess the soil before putting in the in ground garden. Former Tannery site. Carol forwarded some soil guide resources but wondered if there was anyone who could help the garden access soil testing. The universities will run the test but will not give an analysis. Greg volunteered to help. Carol will link.
 - e. City grants: can we help cities/foundations by processing and selecting candidates? (Anthony): Anthony suggests the CGC offer cities or foundations to review grants for community gardens to help avoid delays and backlog. CGC could offer to be in charge of the application process – calls for interest and review of applications. CGC suggests we would need a framework to move forward on this idea. Greg hosted a conference call for urban agriculture – best presentation from Hamilton – could see if they have a framework.
 - f. Food System Roundtable (Greg): This group is keenly interested in Urban Agriculture. They are interested in lobbying for more gardens and temporary markets in Waterloo Region.
 - g. Nonviolence Event: no one responded to request. Darija volunteered to attend but ask for some back-up support – Jeremy will assist. Carol to get display materials to Darija.
- V. Recurring business: defer
 - a. Financial Report (Lorraine)
 - VI. Calendar
 - a. Next meeting August 20th (3rd Tues) – Can we delay by 1 week?
 - VII. Adjournment