

COMMUNITY GARDEN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes (7:00pm Aug 26, 2013)

- I. Called to order by Anthony
- II. Approval of last meeting's minutes – deferred due to lack of quorum
- III. Visitor business (introduce visitors)
 - a. Emily Cho is from the Multicultural Community Garden Network (MCGN) and is the garden coordinator for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) site.
- IV. Business
 - a. Harvest Feast Event (Emily). The MCGN is organizing a Harvest Feast September 29, 2013 and is inviting the CGNW and CGC to partner with them. As we did not have quorum, we agreed to send the invitation out to the council and network. Interested persons are to contact Emily.
 - b. Application for Regional Corporate Sustainability Fund: Emily provided an overview of the grant and the group discussed needs of gardens re: start-up and sustainability. The grant will be offered in October 2013. There are 3 streams of funding: Community garden will be eligible for the community environment fund under the sustainability grant stream depending on the projects they propose.
 - c. Opening of Aboriginal Community Garden feedback (Greg). Anthony reported that Greg attended the opening, donated a plant and said a few words at the event.
 - d. Non-violence festival feedback (Darija, Jeremy). Jeremy reported that this event generated a lot of interest with 14 signees for the listserv. The garden workshops were promoted.
 - e. Sustainable Living Green Zone Event (Darija, Jeremy) This event was not as well attended. The day was slow but a few people were interested.

We talked to some seniors who are downsizing and giving up their home gardens and were interested in community gardens.

Darija still has the display.
 - f. Update on the Langs CG (Cristina in absentia - Anthony) Anthony received an update from Cristina. Their original site for the garden had to be moved. The present site is smaller and has more shade. They were able to find a garden coordinator through the May event – Siana.
 - g. Accessible Gardens Update (Anthony): Anthony received an update from Krista Long.
 - Good Earth
 - Home Depot Waterloo to do the raised bed build
 - Helmutz needs to fix the walkway and finish the final grading for the swale.
 - Trinity Village
 - Home Depot Central Kitchener to set a date to finish the pergola.
 - Helmutz repaired the asphalt joint between the existing pathway and the concrete pad, but still needs further repairs!

Chandler Mowat

- all the major work is complete by Helmutz; the raised beds were completed by Tim Elliot and his volunteers. Anthony circulated a picture. Just need to source the soil.

Preston Heights

- In process of getting a different contractor. Construction still has not started on the Kiwanis building, so this means the garden construction can not start. Hopefully the accessible build may be able to start this fall.

- h. Thank You for Linda Bluhm (church). Carol sent a thank-you to Linda and the Kitchener/Cambridge politicians. Anthony has already sent one to the mayor in Waterloo.
 - i. Renewal/Recruitment for Council: Another year has started and we need to confirm council membership (The terms of reference states members are to commit to attending 8 of 10 meetings). Members of the public are welcome to attend at any time but members meet quorum to make decisions. Carol will check in with current members.
 - j. Liability insurance (gardens, council). Council discussed the fact that community gardens in the US have liability insurance available as they have had law suits (mostly due to dog bites). Is this something the council should explore? As most gardens are on public land that already has public insurance coverage e.g., churches, community centres, do the gardens need it?
 - k. Communications: newsletter and chat lines (Carol) Postings on the webpage and communication with the listserv have been limited due to incompatibility issues between the provider, Blueprint Agencies (they recently upgraded) and the Region which uses a lower level internet explorer. We have been trying to resolve these issues. Also, Blueprint lost all of the network contact (over 250 people) info on when they upgraded. They have suggested we use mailchimp for the purposes of the monthly newsletter. The disadvantage is that mailchimp does not allow communication between its members only back to the sender. Does council want to set-up something different like a chat room to allow people to communicate with each other? The newsletter is fine for the network but not so great for people who want to chat about garden issues. For example, garden coordinators may wish to discuss issues between themselves. Facebook is not great as it does not control access or protect privacy of individuals. Carol found a chatroom called chatzy that does allow control over who belongs to the group but may collect information on its users and it is based in Romania. Council did not trust this source. Anthony will investigate further.
- V. Recurring business
- a. Financial Report (Lorraine) - defer
- VI. Calendar
- a. Next meeting Sep 17th (3rd Tues)
- VII. Adjournment