

**Community Garden Council Meeting
Minutes (7:00pm Sep 17, 2013)**

Present: Anthony, Lorraine, Carol

Absent: Greg, Jeremy, Jason, Emily.

Guests: Tracy, Michael

- I. Meeting called to order by Anthony
- II. Approval of last meeting's minutes: No quorum defer
- III. Visitor business (introduce visitors)

Welcome to Tracy B. Tracey has been trying to start a garden at Green Valley Drive in Kitchener. She has support from the neighborhood and from the ward councilor, Yvonne Fernandes. She applied to the city for start-up funds but was not successful. She needs a sponsor with charitable status to apply elsewhere. Carol will check with Opportunities Waterloo Region and add Tracey to the CGN listserv. Carol will also connect Tracey to Emily Cho.

Michael H. , Environmental Studies and Business student:

Michael is establishing a campus compost coalition and has received a grant from the University of Waterloo Students' Endowment Fund. The students will be purchasing a compost drum. It will be a student based project piloting at St Jerome's and will be collecting compost from student buildings and UW Food Services. Community Garden Council is interested in partnering with the coalition. There are community gardens on campus that could benefit. Michael states the project will have a business model and unsure at this point if there will be a charge for the compost. CGC suggests starting small and growing with demand.

Michael is interested in joining the Community Garden Council; however it conflicts with his school schedule. Michael is welcome to join in the winter term if his schedule allows. Carol will add Michael to the CGN listserv.

IV. Business

- a. Accessible Garden Update: Anthony provided an update.
 - i. Opening events – Chandler Mowat is scheduling an event for October 23rd; Good Earth and Trinity will likely join together for theirs
- b. Opening of Aboriginal Community Garden feedback (Greg) defer
- c. Garden Network Meeting. We usually have a fall meeting but do not have enough people at CGC meeting to organize one. Carol to see if there is interest in the network.
- d. Renewal/Recruitment for Council: Alisa, Darija, Tammy, Michelle, Laura and Harriet have stepped down as council members. They are still welcome to attend meetings when able.
- e. Eby Village Garden Opening: Eby Village applied to the Region for start-up funds and was successful. James Graham assisted them with the garden project. They hosted a garden opening. Carol attended the opening and shared some pictures.
- f. Review of the year and going forward: The membership in council has declined along with attendance at meetings. The question was asked if Community Garden Council still served a useful purpose. What is our purpose?
 - Linking people with gardens
 - Assisting with garden start-ups
 - Compost deliveries
 - Sounding board for gardens
 - Arranging network events

The next question asked was – do we need to meet once a month? Frequency of meetings depends on what we wish to accomplish and the people available to accomplish them.

Have we made a concerted effort to recruit new members? Are we listed on the Volunteer Action Board? Have we placed a call for membership to the network? A suggestion was made that this year be a “water shed” year to assess these questions. Have we used social media to engage our community? Do we have a volunteer to do this?

Action: Carol to place a call for new membership with the network and on the Food System Roundtable.

- g. High Brix Foods Workshop @ Avenue Rd – Bill R. Bill sent a rough draft of a seminar he will be hosting at Avenue Road Baptist Church and asks if we are interested in promoting it to our members. Council is in favour of promoting it.

V. Recurring business

- a. Financial Report (Lorraine): Current balance is \$607.70. Bank charges \$2.00 per month and pays \$0.03 per month.

Action: Lorraine will explore if the charges will drop at Grand River Credit Union if we receive electronic copies versus paper. She will also explore charges at the Bank of Montreal.

- b. Garden Updates: defer

VI. Calendar

- a. Next meeting Oct 15th (3rd Tues)

VII. Adjournment