

Community Garden Council (CGC) Meeting
Minutes (7:00 p.m. Jan 21, 2014)

Present: Anthony, Emily, Jason, Greg, Carol, Jeremy
Regrets: Lorraine, Cristina

Recorder: Carol Popovic R.N.

- I. Meeting called to order by Anthony.
- II. Review and approval of last meeting's minutes. Minutes were approved
- III. Visitor business (introduce visitors) Eva and Arlene were invited to attend meetings – Eva has a conflict.
- IV. Business
 - a. Youth Engagement Vision and Plan (Carol). A discussion was held about how CGC wanted to proceed with youth engagement. Members felt strongly that youth engagement was the next step in making garden truly inclusive. Others felt we need to watch our energy and capacity levels. The group approved of organizing a youth engagement workshop for garden coordinators. The best time and date would be April 12th.
Action: Carol will ask Public Health for sponsorship. Emily and Carol will meet to work out preliminary details and call for help organizing with the garden network.
 - b. New Youth Garden, Elmira (Carol): There is interest in Elmira to strike a community-high school partnership for a youth garden. The high school has a geo-thermal heated green house but need a community partner for continuity over school breaks.
 - c. Spark Grant (Greg): Greg shared that the Food System Round Table Urban Agriculture subcommittee received a Spark grant to advocate for policy change to support temporary farmers markets and community gardens.
 - d. Spring Workshop in conjunction with Giving Gardens event, 2014 (Anthony, Emily)
Carol received an e-mail from Mary which she thought Mary was not able to co-plan but she will double check.

- e. Community Environmental Fund (Emily). Emily shared that due to Regional budget reductions some of the environmental grants were impacted. A notice will be released to applicants shortly.
- f. Harvest Feast 2014 (Emily). Emily shared that the event was a huge success last fall and will plan another event this fall. A question was raised if CGC could combine their fall education network session with their fall event?
- g. Annual Garden/Gardener award? (discussion). Not discussed.
- h. Incorporation or Charitable status? (discussion) The reason why CGC might consider becoming a registered charity or incorporated is that we can independently obtain funding and manage our own projects. To date we have had a sponsoring agency, Opportunities Waterloo Region (OWR) apply and administer our funds with leadership from the Diggable Communities Partnership (CGC, Public Health (PH) and OWR) . However, we have lost our sponsoring agent. PH is not able to administer funds outside of the Ministry of Health. The criteria to become a registered charity was reviewed and discussed. A decision was made that CGC currently does not have the capacity at this point.
- i. Future of the council; low attendance, no quorum (temporary suspend TOR?); recruitment (discussion)
 - i. Past – 2 networking/education sessions per year
 - ii. Special projects, newsletter, website/Facebook
 - iii. Future – Volunteer base for garden work

The issue was discussed – CGC needs members to take ownership and actively do work between meetings and to attend meetings. Small membership will determine what can logistically be done. This problem of membership and capacity should be discussed at a coordinators meeting.

V. Recurring business

- a. Financial Report (Lorraine). Lorraine sent account balance (\$597.83)

VI. Calendar

- a. Next meeting Feb 18th (3rd Tues)

VII. Adjournment at 9 PM