

Community Garden Council Meeting
Minutes (7:00 p.m. Feb 18, 2014)

Present: Anthony, Greg, Emily, Jeremy, Lorraine, Shane, joined later on by Eva.

Absent: Jason, Cristina

Recorder: Carol Popovic R.N.

- I. Meeting called to order by Anthony
- II. Approval of last meeting's minutes: Minutes were reviewed and approved
- III. Visitor business (introduce visitors)
 - a. Welcome to Shane. Shane is studying Environmental Science
- IV. Business
 - a. Youth engagement: CGC invited Impact members to share how to engage more youth in gardens:
Input given:
 1. Young people like recreational areas for sports, new places, free things like prizes, food
 2. Community projects that are attractive provide clearly defined tasks, interacting with other youth, conferences that include hands on learning
 3. Youth are not fond of being the only person of their age group, or to be given unclear instructions/expectations
 4. Its easier for youth to be involved if events are held in familiar spots-close to areas they normally go e.g., waterloo skate park, low cost or free, easily accessed by bus or transportation provided
 5. In a mixed age group setting, youth like to be welcomed but not pointed or singled out – they like an atmosphere with a positive vibe. They like other youth to be involved
 6. Youth like to communicate with social media. They would be more apt to hear about events/opportunities through school or community groups. For garden involvement, try approaching school greenhouse or environmental clubs. Hold workshops/projects in school.
 7. Promote with bright colors, pictures and visuals
 8. Youth will become involved if they are informed how a topic affects them and can give their perspective on it. If other youth are involved, it increases interest. If it is interesting like filed trip to rare – they will tell other youth about it.
 9. Youth bring assets like being physically active and fit, passing on information/advocacy to other youth, social media
 - b. Education Network meeting, Apr 26, Theme "Youth Engagement": A subcommittee has volunteered to assist in planning the event.
CGC would like to know from the network things like:
 1. How can we better serve the gardens?

2. How can the network better organize to share resources like tools, language interpreters, social media, and volunteer workers?
- c. Regional Grant (community endowment fund) for gardens (Carol) Coronation Public School and House of Friendship (Charles St) will be receiving grants for starting community gardens
- d. Preston accessible garden update from Sandy (Anthony): Buildings are going up, setting up a garden meeting at the end of Feb to schedule garden construction
- e. Discuss youth ambassador questions (Emily) - delete
- f. Seedy Saturday, Feb 22: Emily has volunteered to attend. Lorraine gave Emily a cheque for the amount of \$30.00 for the admission fee. Additional attendees must bring \$5.00 to cover cost of lunch.
- g. New garden interest (Carol):
 1. Carol met with a new group from Preston wanting to start a garden in their neighbourhood. Start-up information was provided.
 2. EDSS may consider applying for the Ministry of Education local food fund to help with their greenhouse-community garden project. The Fund has other requirements like youth engagement and engaging with local farmers.
 3. MS Society has received a grant from New Horizons to install an accessible garden at their site.
- h. TOW volunteer needed, Apr 7: St Teresa of Avila (Carol) Shane, Eva, Emily and Jeremy are possibly interested.
- i. Council membership: social media, project coordinator for project builds – see item b.
- j. Taste of Woolwich, Apr 7: CGC booth volunteer?
- k. Recurring business: Financial Report (Lorraine) Account currently has \$597.83 and will have \$567.83 once the Horticultural Society cashes the cheque for Seedy Saturday.
- V. Calendar
 - a. Next meeting Mar 18th (3rd Tues)
- VI. Adjournment @ 8:40 p.m.