

**Community Garden Council (CGC) Meeting
Meeting Notes (7:00pm Apr 15, 2014)**

Present: Emily, Jason, Jeremy, Anthony, Lorraine, Carol Popovic R.N.

Guests: Krista, Doug

- I. Meeting called to order by Anthony
- II. Approval of last meeting's minutes - approved
- III. Visitor business (introduce visitors) – welcome to Krista and Doug
- IV. Business
 - a. Community Gardens in the Township, Food System Roundtable (Krista)
 - i. Krista introduced the Waterloo System Food System Roundtable community garden and temporary local farmers' markets project. WRFSRT received a Heart and Stroke grant to create increased access to fresh, healthy, local foods through temporary farmers' markets and community gardens where people live and work will increase consumption of fresh foods thereby increasing the health of individuals in the region.
 - ii. They propose to 1) Meet with Municipal Councillors and Candidates to provide information and gain support for temporary farmer's markets and community gardens; 2) Deliver a public outreach campaign to raise awareness and support for temporary farmer's markets and community gardens
 - iii. Krista was invited to the next network meeting to inform the community
 - b. Preston Accessible Garden Update (Krista, handout)
 - i. Krista is the site coordinator for the accessible garden build in Preston. She provided an update on the build as well as maps of the garden site. The garden is being built on Kiwanis Housing lands as per agreement with The Region. The site for the garden is currently being use as a holding site for the construction workers. Kiwanis expects the garden site will be available Mid-May. Wright's Landscaping will build the accessibility component. Home Depot will be involved with the regular garden build in June.
 - ii. Discussion occurred about being able to build on the former water sites. Doug states the City of Kitchener will not go forward with a regional agreement to build a garden at the Cedar Hill site due to soil contamination. The build has been canceled.
 - c. Garden Workshop Logistics Apr 26th 1-3:30pm (Carol)
 - i. Carol provided an overview of the workshop and members' roles. Everyone is asked to contribute.
 - d. Grandview Organic Community Garden (Carol)
 - i. Carol received an inquiry about a garden in Conestoga and was able to track its coordinator. Janice and her husband own the property and have started a small community garden. Janice will attend the workshop. She is also starting a seed library.

- e. TD Friends Meeting (Greg sent in a report)
 - i. Greg met with the TD Western Ontario Regional Advisory Board couple of weeks ago and gave them an overview of community gardens, their needs and priorities, and suggested things they might consider when reviewing applications from gardens for grants. TC Green Fund has now expanded its granting terms of reference to include urban agriculture and community gardens.
 - ii. One important matter that surfaced was TD's Green Fund policy excluded funding religious groups. Greg mentioned that a high proportion of gardens were located in church yards; they said this was helpful to know that the gardens were guests on their properties. He also mentioned the need to fund new garden start-ups and informed them on the issue of water access.
 - iii. Also, Greg will need to step down from CGC for a few months due to family care-giving priorities.
- f. Cambridge Self Help Fair (Jana, Sara) Jana and Sara sent in reviews. They felt the fair seemed well organized with a nice variety of activities and booths. However, turnout was low. Overall they felt it's an event with a lot of potential, and the organizers have probably learned a few things from this first attempt. If we're invited again they think it's worthwhile to participate.
- g. Waterloo Earth Day event activity; Sat, May 10th 10am-2pm; Laurel Creek
CGC members are busy and cannot commit – perhaps send invite to the network.
- h. Promotional Requests (Carol)
 - i. Ecofest @ Waterloo Region Museum Saturday 9:30 am – 4:30 pm, May 31st. This event has a high volume of people and requires hands on activity for children. The booth has to be manned at all times – likely need several volunteers. Carol to send request out to network.
- i. Compost Update (Anthony)
 - i. Anthony to make arrangements with Regional Landfill and Randy Trucking. Applications will go out to network with letter. No orders will be considered past due date due to popular demand. New gardens will be given first priority along with gardens that have not had compost in the recent past. Number of loads are restricted.

V. Recurring business

- a. Financial Report (Lorraine) No change

VI. Calendar

- a. Next meeting 7 pm May 20th (3rd Tues), 99 Regina St S, Waterloo

VII. Adjournment