

Community Garden Council Meeting

Meeting Notes (7:00pm May 20, 2014)

Present: Anthony, Carol, Jeremy, Emily
Absent: Shane (Eva?), Lorraine, Jason
Sabbatical: Greg

- I. Called to order by Anthony: Question arose re: Quorum and Public Health vote. Public Health has always been a voting member. Concern voiced over size of committee and need to recruit new members.
- II. Approval of last meeting's minutes: Minutes were distributed to all members and no revisions were forwarded.
- III. Business From Minutes:
 - a. CGN workshop – people were engaged. Only one suggestion was provided on the wall postings. Ways to further engage gardens discussed.
Action: Each member will contact a garden other than their own, invite to the next meeting and try to connect more with that garden by asking the following questions:
 - State who you are and you are calling from the Community garden Council and that you would like to make a connection with the garden.
 - Ask what they would like to showcase about their garden. We will feature these gardens in the newsletter (maybe send a picture – with consent to post)
 - Ask how can CGC better support their garden and be better connected to them.
 - Ask how many people are on their waiting list.

Contacts:

Jeremy will contact Christ Lutheran

Emily -Mount Zion

Anthony-McDougall

Carol – Breakwater (Sunset)

Hold one Garden Council meeting in Cambridge per year. As for holding meetings at gardens sites, we decided it was not feasible to travel to a different site for each meeting.

Look into an updated, interactive website that belongs to CGN.

b. Doug and Urban Harvest: Carol forwarded Doug's idea to a few other people who were either interested or involved in similar projects:

- Rachel T. is starting an incredible edible movement in KW similar to the movement in Todmorden UK (see Ted Talk https://www.ted.com/talks/pam_warhurst_how_we_can_eat_our_landscape). Her group meets at 10:30 am @ Beertown Sunday mornings. Contact Rachel if interested. They have started planting May 15th,
- Jennifer M. is accessing GIS data from Kitchener and Waterloo to map fruit bearing trees. Information is on excel right now but she suggests these trees can be pin mapped on google.

Sounds like there is a lot of energy but requires someone to coordinate and lead.

IV. Visitor business (introduce visitors) No visitors

V. Business

a. Garden Updates:

EMS site:

- Multicultural garden network held their garden start-up meeting (EMS, Northdale and Vermont Park). There is a lot of interest in the plots but all of them were taken which was disappointing for those who came to the promotional event. Vermont Park is forming a partnership with a church close by.
- Gardeners are beginning their work. One gardener has accidentally taken over another gardener's plot.
- Some vandalism and stealing of garlic and carrots.
- A resident demanded a plot at the garden and complained to the city but there were no plots available.

Salvation Army:

- Garden is full – 100 plots. Harriett does the registration.
- Some gardeners have 2 plots; concerned about reducing the number as those who are food insecure may be dependent on them.

Green Valley Drive: Tracy B. is starting a new garden at Green Valley Dr. Tracy came to CGC last year for support. Tim W. has connected with Tracy and the garden was to go in ground May 16th.

Action: Anthony to send a thank-you Tim W., City of Kitchener

- b. Community Garden Promotion Opportunity, Uptown Market, June 12th (Carol) Kathleen Staulbaum contacted us for an opportunity to promote community gardens. Alisa, Eva and Emily indicated interest.
Action: Carol to forward information to Emily.
- c. Community Garden Competition idea (Carol): In the UK they host a community allotment competition. They have a garden built for the competition with 2 gardeners per plot. Each plot has several challenges given e.g., grow the straightest bean, perfect rose, create a flower wreath, etc., CGC asked if there was any interest in an adapted event with community gardens? See the link and the youtube show:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8J9z2y2cxKg> ;
<http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/gardening-blog/2014/may/13/big-allotment-challenge>
- d. Letter of Support for new Sturdy Park Preston Garden (Carol): The Preston Community Garden (PCG) Team is asking for your letter of support and your signature before May 22! The group had city permission to start a new garden in Sturdy Park as per the City's Garden Policy C-10.160 but met with resistance from a nearby resident who struck a petition against the garden going in. Construction of the garden began at the end of April with the creation of 24 garden plots. Unfortunately, May 15th the City of Cambridge instructed them to halt all operations at the garden due to the petition.

The issue will now be decided at the next City Council meeting on Monday, May 26th. The PCG states City Council will also be taking a look at the new Community Gardens Policy C-10.160 (city-wide) which may have implications for other new gardens.

Actions:

Sign the petition using this link:

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/306/358/617/save-preston-community-garden-and-the-city-of-cambridges-community-gardens-policy-c-10160/> .

Write a letter of support may be addressed to Preston Community Garden Committee by Thursday May 22. Send to prestoncommunitygarden@hotmail.com.

Delegation: Greg will be registering as a delegate for the Community Garden Council. See their Facebook page: [facebook.com/prestoncommunitygarden](https://www.facebook.com/prestoncommunitygarden)

- e. Accessible Garden Update (Krista) Anthony circulated an update from Krista to council.
 - Preston: The accessibility component of Preston's garden is set to start in May. The Home Depot build for the rest of the garden in August.
 - Chandler Mowat: Diggables received an e-mail from Kelly Steiss asking when the Chandler Mowat garden will be complete. The garden group had agreed to fill the beds and reinstall the fence but with the coordinators gone, Diggables decided to finish these items.
- f. Compost Delivery Report (Anthony, Lorraine) We had to turn down orders this year due to the response and our limited time/resources, compost delivery took place Wed May 14th. After paying the trucking bill, we had an \$85 shortfall this year (would have been a \$5 shortfall if we charged \$100 per load). The transport time to the Cambridge landfill is the critical factor. Thanks to Lorraine for filling in at short notice and riding the truck. We will need to consider if this is a valid service next year as we can only fill a limited number of orders in one day.
Action: All were in favor of a \$50.00 honorarium for Lorraine.

VI. Recurring business

- a. Financial Report (Lorraine)

VII. Calendar

- a. Next meeting Jun 17th (3rd Tues)

VIII. Adjournment

Accessible Garden updates from Krista:

#1

Hope you all had a lovely Easter weekend. Now this is gardening weather! I dug out my stakes for the peas. Hoping to plant them tonight along with lettuce, spinach and kale.

I have spoken to each of you sporadically, so thought I would send another group update! There are just a couple updates.

- Sandy and I met with Home Depot and set some new tentative build dates for the community garden part of the project. The build date is set for June 25th, with a back-up date in mid August if need be. Home Depot is revising the budget and asking head office for more funds to support the project.

- I joined Sandy and the community garden committee last week at their start-up meeting, and provided an update for the group. Everyone is energized and hopeful that the garden will happen this year (they said they need to see it to believe it!). We reviewed the list of tools, so I will be getting those for the garden. We also reviewed the design and the group has some revisions. We are trying to maximize growing space in the raised beds - the group feels standing height raised beds would better accommodate their group, which adds a cost, so I am trying to be creative and maximize that growing space while staying within the current quote from Wright's.

- Bev from Kiwanis joined us to give an update on their build. They are still on schedule for a mid June occupancy. They are working toward having the site ready for Wright's by mid May.

So, as of now things are on schedule and moving along!

Next steps - I will be meeting with Wright's on site to finalize the design and the budget in early May, as well as to get a quote for re-installing the fence.

I will also join the Preston committee for their next meeting - set for April 30th.

I will send another update once I have everything finalized with Wright's, unless we hit any bumps along the way!

Krista

#2

Shortly after I sent my update 2 things changed!

1. The Home Depot build is now set for Aug 14th. There is a conflict at Home Depot's end for the June date now. Preston is disappointed, but they are still focusing in getting the garden built this year, then starting to plant things next year!

2. The cost for cedar has gone up this year, so we may not be able to help Preston with as many of the extras we hoped. This will not affect the actual accessible build part of the project, as we had some room in the budget for oversight. I will finalize the budget with Wright's in the next couple of weeks and confirm that.

Thanks,
Krista

#3

Chandler Mowat: Krista helping them finish the accessible garden: investigating mending/replacing a fence and compost/soil for the new gardens