

Community Garden Council Meeting
Minutes (7:00pm Mar 17, 2015)

Present: Anthony, Eva, Shane, Lauren, Jason, Carol

Absent: Greg, Jill, Lorraine

Guests: Leanne, Jo-anne

Meeting called to order by Anthony.

- I. Approval of last meeting's minutes. Minutes were reviewed and approved
- II. Visitor business: Visitors were introduced and welcomed
- III. Business
 - a. Matchboard/Capacity Canada – Jo-Anne. Anthony provided an overview of our meeting with Capacity Canada and introduced Jo-anne. Jo-anne provided an overview of the Matched Board Program at Capacity Canada. The program's sole funder is Manulife at present – they are seeking other partnerships. The program's aim is to provide support to not-for-profit board governance structures. Staff at Manulife are encouraged to volunteer in the community. The matched board program matches skill gaps in the not-for-profit sector with Manulife (or other companies that join Capacity Canada) staff who possess the skills. Once matched, Capacity Canada offers training and guidance to strengthen that NFP. CGC's first step to become eligible is to become an incorporated board. Jo-anne states there will be an information session held at Manulife.

Discussion followed – CGC suggested to Jo-anne that workshops on how to become incorporated would be helpful to groups like ours. Concern voiced re: CGC's autonomy and capacity to apply. CGC requires someone with legal/accounting background to assist.
 - b. Compost orders (email, truck, delivery): We require a volunteer to organize the orders and to ride the truck. An order form is sent out with information on how to pay. Amount is determined by the hourly rate at Adam's Trucking. Arrangements are made for pick-up with Jim Zarzycki at Regional Landfill in Cambridge. Jim will need copy of Adam's Trucking license and weight of truck. The truck can carry 2 loads of compost averaging 8 cu yds each. Cheques are made payable to Community Gardens of Waterloo Region. It does require someone who is available to ride the truck for the day during the week.

Eligibility priorities for compost – order does not guarantee getting the compost :

- New garden
 - Within driving range – can not cover outlying areas
 - Didn't get an order last year
 - No 2 orders per site.
- c. Website Update (Lauren): Lauren, Stephanie and Carol were trained by Piece Works. Volunteers are still providing information for various sections. Anticipated launch in April.
- d. Newsletter (Eva) Eva requested information items:
- Request for compost volunteer
 - Request information on availability of plots for new gardeners
- e. City of Waterloo grants \$2000. Neighborhoods that are fundraising may be eligible for up to \$2,000.00 of matched funds from the city. Gardens have successfully applied in the past but they likely need a registered charity or a sponsor to be eligible. Details see: <http://www.waterloo.ca/en/living/neighbourhoodmatchingfund.asp>. Applications: Apr 1st
- f. New CG contact @ City of Kitchener: Tim Wolfe is no longer working at the city. A new replacement is being recruited. Contact for now is Greg Hummel.
- g. School Scan Meeting (Shane) Teachers have provided input as to who should receive the survey or be interviewed in the public school board system (Catholic School board declined participation as they were at capacity for research projects). The survey tool is complete and will be sent out to the principals and they will be asked to send out broader to involved staff. There is a time crunch to meet the March end deadline. The consultant, Allison is continuing to organize meetings with the teachers/students involved with school gardening for the focus groups. KCI program is impressive!

IV. Events:

- a. Food System Round Table (Shane, Eva): Eva and Shane attended 7-8 workshops within the series and promoted community gardens – handed out the garden story telling report and book marks. Attendance was consistent at about 25-30 per workshop. The speakers were very interesting and topics ranged from the socio-economics impacts of larger corporations, farmers' unions, managing waste, CSA's, organic gardening, etc...
- b. Spring Event (Carol/Jill): Jill and Carol met with Gwen from Master Gardeners to scope out the network events. Jill will post on mind meister. Gwen has offered to speak on Potager. Carol is still trying to work out logistics with the Frederick St garden tour. Possible dates – first week in May. Try to avoid May 2 due to conflict with Earth Day Event

- c. Earth Day – Peggy (Eva): Saturday May 2. Eva volunteered to go. Peggy has requested us to fill in the registration forms. Carol will check to be sure they were sent to Eva. (sent March 4).
- d. City of Waterloo is hosting a workshop April 7th – Protect the pollinators. 6:30—9:00 pm at Princess Twin, 46 King St. N Waterloo.
- e. Seedy Saturday update (Shane). Shane promoted community gardens at this event in February.
- f. Regional “Light” ECOfest booth: Sat, May 30. CGC is invited to have a table. Theme is light – need to check into activities supporting theme – possibly photosynthesis?

V. New Gardens:

- a. Clare and Halima, Bleams Road: Clare and Helima started a garden in Wilmot 2 yrs ago and now have a partnership with a church for a new site on Bleams road (close to the LDS church). They have contacted the city last year for funding but did not hear back and approached them again this year for start-up funds. Carol connected them with Greg Hummel.
- b. Laurella, Bechtel Park/Bridgeport area: Laurella is interested in starting a garden in her neighborhood. Carol provided the start-up guide. Green space is hard to find – much of it taken up with soccer fields. If anyone has any ideas – please let Carol know.
- c. Bruce, Parkminster United Church: As reported last month, Bruce is planning a garden at the church site and has asked garden council for a letter of support. Anthony has been in touch with Bruce and followed through. Carol has made a similar request through Public Health. (Carol linked Bruce with Jill for her landscaping knowledge/support)

VI. Recurring business

- a. Financial Report (No Change: Lorraine)

VII. Calendar

- a. Next meeting Apr 21st (3rd Tues)

VIII. Adjournment