

## COMMUNITY GARDEN COUNCIL MEETING

**Minutes (7:00pm Jun 21, 2011)**

Present: Anthony, Michelle, Alisa, Carol Regrets: Tammy, Greg

**I. Call to order**

**II. Approval of last meeting's minutes:** Minutes were distributed

**III. Visitor business:** Introduction of Mingzia from Patchwork Gardens – EMS site. Mingzia taught University English in China and is willing to volunteer and learn more about community gardens. Mingzia has noticed that many of the gardeners are novice and need to learn gardening techniques. Also there is a problem accessing water from the EMS building – staff over the weekend state gardeners are not allowed to use the water. Many of the plants are wilting. **Action:** Mingxia was encouraged to call Steve. Carol will follow-up with Rhonda at the city.

**IV. Business**

a. *Grand Opening Waterloo Multicultural Gardens (May 30<sup>th</sup>, 3pm, EMS Building, corner of Father David Bauer and Westmount) – TD funding presentation:* Fanis was not present; Carol reported that Yaxi helped organize the media event with Mayor Halloran and TD Friends, Yvette Scrivener officiating the ribbon cutting. Media coverage was great – The Record had a front page story; Polyviews covered the event and Daiene Vernile from CTV interviewed Steve and Fanis on Province Wide. See June 5<sup>th</sup> part one @ <http://swo.ctv.ca/provincewide/>

Greg's written report: "I went to the grand opening of the Patchwork Community Garden beside the old fire hall on Westmount. It was a happy event and quite moving to see the good results of the hard work and long preparation that went into creating the garden, and chat with such a diversity of people from so many different countries. Congratulations to those who made this possible!"

b. *Report: TD cheque presentation to Good Earth Garden for accessible gardens (Alisa, Anthony).* Anthony/Alisa et al. went to the big cheque presentation at the bank opening on Ira Needles. \$5,000.00 was donated to The Good Earth Garden to create accessibility features at the garden site; Ken and Arlene were present from the garden to receive the cheque. Opportunities Waterloo Region is holding the funds. The features will likely be put in place this fall in collaboration with the garden.

c. *Thank-you letters for TD Bank and TD Friends of the Environment;* Theresa Finlayson and Andrew Robinson (Fanis): The Multicultural gardens received over \$8,000.00 to split between 3 garden sites; 2 Patchwork Gardens and 1 Paradise Garden @ the George St Water Tower site. Thank-you cards should be sent from the gardens and from the CGC.

- Action:** Carol to get mailing addresses/letterhead for Anthony to send thank-you card/letters.
- d. *Kitchener Allotment Garden at Williamsburg Cemetery* has moved to 1664 Huron Rd (220 plots, 100 plots still available).
- e. *Outreach Attendance:*
- i. Wilmot – Alisa # 4-5,
  - ii. Food Summit – Greg 50-60,
  - iii. Earth Day – Michelle # 60-70; TOW – Anthony # 450;
  - iv. Green Living Fair- Carol # 80;
  - v. Sparks in Parks – Alisa #10;
  - vi. Garden Opening – Carol # 45;
  - vii. Ecofest Carol/Alisa/Christina - # 200
- f. *Food Summit:* Greg gave a short presentation at the Food Summit organized by the Food System Roundtable and answered a number of questions from the floor. He participated in a discussion session about urban agriculture with 12 other participants. He enjoyed meeting other people and finding out about other food related activities happening in the Region.
- g. *Report: Earth Day (Michelle):* Good day – event well attended. Michelle did a “peapod” activity with the kids. Ontario Seed Co. donated materials. The CGC display did not stand up to the wind.
- h. *Regional Water Towers (Carol):* Two Regional sites have been approached for community gardens. Negotiations are in progress. Demolition is taking place at St George St., garden group expects to be able to use the site pending soil tests.
- i. *Compost Delivery (Lorraine) defer – absent.*  
**Action:** Carol to arrange depositing 2 cheques with Lorraine.
- j. *Woodchip Orders (Tammy) – Tammy has e-mailed she is not able to arrange the orders due to her work schedule.*  
**Action:** Carol to arrange the orders.
- k. *Events: Nonviolence Festival, Jul 9 12-6pm, Victoria Park:* No volunteers have stepped forward.  
**Action:** Carol to send regrets

- l. *Accessible Garden Funding update + planning* (Carol, Anthony) Carol circulated a draft garden accessibility guide that Charity and Kristin contributed to. It is waiting final PH approval before being printed. Trillium has not contacted us re: status of the funding proposal. If approved it will move forward in a staged approach.
- m. *Cambridge Municipal Official Plan Review* (Carol): Cambridge has announced its official plan review sessions.  
**Action:** Greg plans to attend the June 22 session to promote community gardens.
- n. *Fall AGM Event* (planning): Note : Sidney is willing to help plan events but has a meeting conflict with 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays. The issue of planning a workshop that met the needs of community gardens was discussed. As the workshops are held in October/April we are not able to target gardeners to address gardening technique. Workshops well attended in the past involved Canadian Organic Growers/chefs/hosted at garden sites. As fewer garden coordinators attend CGC meetings, we are losing touch with their needs. We discussed hosting at 3 CGC meetings at various garden sites – one being in Cambridge with the intent that the meeting would focus on what is happening in their gardens. We also discussed hosting gardener focused workshops in keeping with the garden season.  
**Action:** Michelle will survey garden coordinators for their input re: meetings, work shops, best time, etc...
- o. *Media:* Greg was interviewed by a journalist writing on urban foraging – he suggest foraging should be regarded as an adjunct to other gardening activities and municipalities could endeavor to plant durable food-bearing shrubs/trees in public spaces. He promotes the foraging of invasive weeds like garlic mustard and lamb's quarters but other native species could not withstand the pressures. He refused to give up his source of spring mushrooms.  
Other media coverage: House of Friendship did a lovely article on bill and the Sunnydale garden; Taste interviewed Brier at an undisclosed Waterloo garden; Polyviews interviewed Katherine and Yaxi in separate articles.

## **V. Recurring business**

- a. Financial Report (Lorraine) – absent defer

## **VI. Calendar**

- a. Next meeting Aug 16 (3<sup>rd</sup> Tues)

## **VII. Adjournment**