

## COMMUNITY GARDEN COUNCIL MEETING

**Minutes: Mar 20, 2018**

- I. Meeting called to order: Present: Eva, Anthony, Jason, Lauren, Jill, Carol
- II. Approval of last meeting's minutes - deferred
- III. Regrets: Anneka, Greg, Sara, Mike
- IV. Visitors: Josh J. / Lauren B., City of Kitchener.  
Kate N., Your Neighborhood Credit Union Vice President, Corporate Communications, Community and Government Relations
- V. Business
  - a. **Draft Community garden agreement:** Josh Joseph circulated a draft garden agreement for individual garden committees for which the committee chair would sign. CGC members were encouraged to review the agreement and forward any suggested revisions to Josh.  
CGC members suggested the following changes to Appendix A:
    - Rule 1: Some discussion followed re: use of garden after October. Most gardeners are finished by October
    - Rule 7: Consider changing to: Noxious, toxic, and potentially harmful plants are prohibited including plants which may be used for their mood altering effects
    - Rule 8: Change pesticides shall not be used to: Commercial pesticides/herbicides shall not be used as per Regional bylaw. Organic methods of weed and pest control are encouraged.
    - Omit rule 15 – some people plant fall and winter crops. Rule 13 will cover the overall tidiness of the garden.
  - Garden Insurance:** City of Kitchener will be covering the cost of insurance for city gardens – cost \$4 per garden plot and \$10 per garden. Josh circulated a draft insurance form for CGC review. Gardeners will need to sign the form and the garden committee(s) will need to ensure gardeners follow the terms of the community garden agreement. Coordinators will need to submit signed insurance forms before April 1. The Insurer is requiring the garden area to be clearly delineated either by a fence, hedge or surface texture. The City still needs to set a process for submission of forms and reports. CGC members felt most people would submit an online form,

however, paper forms maybe needed for people not online or who speak a different language.

CGC feedback:

- Move #7 higher to the top of the list

Josh asked about a communication to garden coordinators. CGC has an annual network meeting

**Action:** CGC to invite the City to the fall network event.

- b. **YNCU partnership/sponsorship** (Josh, Kate N.,) The Neighborhood Credit Union has a sponsorship program that the Community Garden Council may be interested in. One of the programs NCU is proud to be involved in is the Community Relations Program which helps build better communities by giving back to nonprofits likely to provide lasting benefits to the citizens of the communities serving Southwestern Ontario and which can demonstrate wise use of donated funds, be well administered and stable. Registered charities are required for one stream of funding but other possibilities may exist. CGC members discussed how this opportunity could provide much needed funding to update infrastructure in older gardens and to install accessibility features. Anthony suggested students maybe able to survey the gardens for items needed to meet city requirements – funds are also needed to support gardens not on city land.

**Action:** Next steps to be explored.

- c. **Community Garden Council volunteers for Kitchener Community Gardens Grant Reviews** (Lauren B.,). The city has 3 garden builds for 2018: Henry Stern, Gildner Green and King E Auditorium. Grants for 2019 will be reviewed after June 1, 2018. The City is asking for 2 CGC members to be a part of the Community Garden Grant Review committee.

**Action:** 2 CGC volunteers needed to review city of Kitchener garden grant applications

- d. **Banking update** (move to new bank, signers)
- Existing signers: Anthony has not been able to contact Lorraine to close out the account  
**Action:** Anthony to arrange closure of the account with Greg and Jason.
  - Pending payment for incorporation: \$200 (Anthony)
  - Pending payment for Seed Saturday: \$25 (to Eva)

- e. **Incorporation progress** (Jill): Done

- f. **Two more school builds** (Jill): Jill has 2 more schools interested in building school gardens; Groh Public School (Thomas Slee Dr., Kitchener) and Sir Adam Beck (Baden). Some funding is still available through Healthy Kids Community Challenge. Jill will continue using the Healthy Kids school build application form and is currently applying for additional funds for other interested gardens.
- g. **School Food Garden Workshop**, Mar 24, 8:30am-1pm: Jill provided an update. Set-up will take place Friday morning. Concerns expressed over AV equipment and HDMI outlet. Jill has requested all AV presentations be made available before Friday. Jill has some difficulty reaching Terrylynn who will be bringing her own laptop. Patrick sent his presentation on icloud – Jill has difficulty uploading – she will contact Pat and ask him to provide the file. Eva has a powerpoint she would like to present.  
**Action:** Members to send AV presentations to Jill before Friday.  
 Kids Activities: Carol has assembled coloring pages, hop scotch mat, table paper for a mural, crayons.  
**Action:** Supplies are needed; Eva to bring children scissors, seed mandela; members to bring an extra seeds if they have them.
- h. **Letter of support for KCI aquaponic application:** Mike will be applying for the Farm to School grant and has requested a letter of support from Public Health. A letter has been drafted and is going through the approval process.
- i. **Lunch and Learn request** from Marisa M, Apr 12 . A guest speaker has been requested for CBA Canada employees. **Action:** Jill to contact Marisa
- j. **Communication from City of Waterloo.** Carol received a communication from the city stating that three community garden agreements on city property have expired. The city has decided the position is outdated and needs to be re-evaluated for risk assessment and responsibilities. Therefore, the city is reviewing several aspects of the program including their policies, processes and resources to help guide the direction for future gardens - new garden starts will be delayed until the following year. CGC members discussed the situation and wondered if the City of Kitchener draft policies might be helpful.  
**Action:** Carol to contact the cities.
- k. **Research request from Sara F.** UW 3<sup>rd</sup> yr – interest in creating a compost program b/e local cafes and gardens

**Action:** Eva will provide contact information to Shane who coordinates the university gardens. Lauren will send information about the program she developed using coffee grounds at The Working Centre.

- I. **Dandelion Festival:** After a several year hiatus, the Dandelion Festival will be returning Saturday May 26, 2018 from noon to 4 pm at Waterloo Park.

**Action:** Jason will contact re: CGC display at the event

**VI. Recurring business - deferred**

- a. Newsletter (Siyoung)
- b. Financial Report (Sara)

**VII. Calendar**

- a. Next meeting Apr 17th (3<sup>rd</sup> Tues) at 99 Regina St S, Wloo

**VIII. Adjournment**