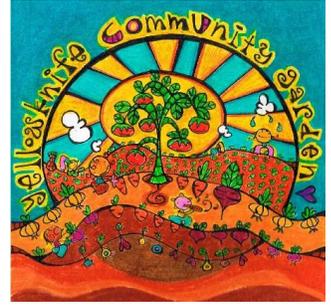


**Yellowknife Community Garden Collective
Annual General Meeting
Northern United Place
Thursday November 27, 2014**



Meeting called to order 7:10pm

Introduction of board members and description of board position.

Motion to approve Agenda

Moved by Dave Taylor Seconded by Tasha

Motion to approve the 2013 Minutes

Moved by Tasha Seconded by Christina

Treasurer Report presented by Jennifer Broadbridge

We had \$40,000 a few years ago from grants, but all has been spent now with the Site 1 & 2 expansions and new Niven garden.

Shannon Ripley explains our membership revenue pays for operational expenses every year. The board applies for grants if there are major projects planned.

There is a reserve of \$5000.

A recommendation was made to increase our membership fees. If there are more than two people in a garden plot then two will pay the gardener plot fee + membership fee for a total of \$25 and the others will pay the membership fee of \$10.

Motion to increase the membership fee, with a supporting gardener membership fee to be \$10 and the gardener plot fee to be \$15.

Moved by Tasha Seconded by Diana Mathison

City of Yellowknife compost bins

The city is now charging for the red compost bins and pick up. Shannon discussed the reasons for the changes. The pilot project is now complete and the city is now needing to charge for the project to be successful. Tipping fees are \$23 per tipping plus a fee to deliver the compost bins.

Site 2 has a compost bin and we will be keeping it there during the summer months. Weledah school compost will also be paid for during the months of July and August as well as two tippings for the month of September. The school will pay for the compost bin for the rest of the year.

Dave Taylor mentioned to write to city council at council@yellowknife.ca with suggestions on the composting program.

Motion to approve the 2015 budget as amended

Moved by Christine Seconded by Sandra

Nominations for garden board positions

There are 10 positions on the board

Members staying on for the 2015 year:

Giselle Beaudry

Fiona McGregor

Jennifer Broadbridge

Caihla MacCuish

Dave Taylor

Vera Raschke

New members nominated:

Tracy Carroll

Jacqueline Archer

Martina Bezzola

Time commitment is one meeting per month ~ three hours

Busier during the months of April- October depending on position.

Motion to close nominations

Moved by Dave Taylor Seconded by Sandra

Site Manager Reports

Site 1 & 2 Update presented by Dave Taylor

There are now 68 plots available in both sites with 45 members added, totaling 138 members.

Site one has been expanded. Site two plots were realigned.

Berry Orchard presented by Dave Taylor

Originally planted by Dwayne with an underground watering system, with the agreement that the garden collective would maintain. The berries are for all community members.

Old Town presented by Anne & Christina

This garden is the smallest but most popular site with 16 plots but often more than two gardeners per plots. This year saw many new gardeners with great production results, though it was a very dry season with a serious vole problem. Companion planting was suggested.

There are Saskatoon berries at the garden.

Weledeh Garden presented by Caihla MacCuish

Elizabeth Munroe, Weledeh school gardener responsible for running the buddy program gave written feedback on the program, stating the students are increasing

yearly in their involvement in the garden. More knowledge about the program from garden members is necessary for continued success.

This year there were more weeds and less vandalism.

A new lock was put on shed and more irrigation hoses were installed for increase water supply.

Mary Murphy presented by Tasha

This garden is downtown at the Senior's residence. Every year we are unsure if they will have space for us but usually there are three community plots in the big garden behind the building

Niven presented by Katarina

The new garden is in Moyle park with twelve plots currently. It is almost complete and gardening will occur in the 2015 year. Those who have volunteered have priority on the garden plots. There is still a need for volunteers and funding to finish the fence and shed in the spring.

Acknowledgement is made to the city of Yellowknife for putting land aside to develop the garden in Niven.

Membership Report presented by Shannon Ripley

All gardens were full in the 2014 year.

Site 1- 88

Site 2- 46

Site 3- 35

Site 4- 36

Site 5- 4

A new document was created to explain the plot allocation process and will be made available on the website.

The registration form will change having four choices for gardens and an option "if I don't get my first two choices I will not be gardening".

A registration call out will go out soon to remind people that early registration has begun.

Education report presented by Fiona McGregor

Thank you's were given for all the presenters and workshop facilitators in the 2014 year.

Donations Report presented by Giselle Beaudry

Online donation tracking reports 1200 pounds and 266 bags. Donations expected are 25% of plot. There are a number of organizations that accept our donations but if you donate to another cause it can be put under other.

Weledeh's donation plot is to the student gardeners. It was asked if Niven can start a neighbourhood youth program and the board will look into it.

Every year the board calls to ask organizations if they still would like to receive donations and their preferred items.

Communications Report presented by Jennifer Broadbridge
Website is already set up for 2015 registrations and a new online waiver.
The newsletter is sent out via email monthly.
There is a new facebook page.

Visioning Session

A visioning session happened on Thursday November 13, 2014 to discuss the garden collective's growth, strengths, and challenges at the board level. Current and past board, site managers were invited to attend.

With the garden collective continuously growing there is a lot more work for the board in areas of membership, garden site duties, and education and support.

Out of the visioning session came the idea of a garden site team with three to four members focused on overall garden coordination, communications, planning and budget, and membership.

The garden collective is working on a document with clear definitions of the site team roles, specific jobs needing to be done at each site.

A document is being developed for each gardener to read before becoming a member and get assigned a plot, describing the responsibilities (weeding, work bees, etc.) as well as better information on the garden collective.

This will be online and must be read before moving forward to the registration page.

Comments

There is a challenge of coordinating and finding site level teams if we are having challenge with finding board members. Suggestion: if people don't step up that site will not exist.

The site team will have a better chance of engaging site members and rebuild a sense of "community" in community garden. Can call members to attend work bees and engage on site. Less work for one person and more effective. The work of the team and the suggestions will be fully supported by the board.

Abandoned plots will be better tracked and black marked to then not get plot for following year. Follow up emails regarding abandoned plots will be sent by June 15 and then given away.

The site team will send biweekly news flashes to keep gardeners connected and informed about events, work to be done and specific garden tips.

Thank you to everyone for coming to the 2014 AGM.

Meeting adjourned 9:35pm.