

Cates Hill Community Garden Initiative

Planning Group Meeting 27 January 2010

These are not formal minutes of the meeting, but informal notes. I have also included other information that I have obtained after the meeting, or that is relevant to one of the discussion topics.

Breet Dowler kindly hosted the meeting at his house.

Attendees: Brett Dowler, Joanne Fallow, Jennifer Hall, Jack Headley, Owen Plowman, Karen Wristen (BAA)

Regrets: Nicola Murray, Pam Matthews, Aubin van Berckel

Topics

Leadership of the Community Garden initiative

We agreed that the Cates Hill Neighbourhood Association (CHNA), supported by the BAA, should provide the **public leadership** for this initiative. This means, for example, that the proposal to be made to Council in the early Spring should be from the CHNA. It does not mean that other individuals and/or organizations cannot act as leaders for the various issues that we will encounter as we move ahead.

Community Garden proposal, timeline, and budget

Items remaining to do concerning the proposal are:

- Funding plan
- Project timeline
- Addition of “in kind” labour and material donations to the list of expenses.

Owen Plowman agreed to work on building a formal document from the existing MS-Excel document prepared by Brett Dowler. It was also noted that the BIM CAO, Hendrik Slegtenhorst, should be approached for advice on the appropriate way to proceed with some of the aspects of the process where BIM is involved. Owen said that he would contact the CAO to discuss this [OP note: I did telephone the CAO and he informed me that he’s much too busy to meet with me face-to-face, even for fifteen minutes, but that I should submit questions to him via email].

Roles

We need to identify individuals who can take on roles in the process of putting the proposal, and the actual Community Garden, together. This implies that we must contact the Greenways Committee, Parks and Recreation (Christine Walker), and others.

Greenways Committee meeting: March 18th

Peter Frinton recommends that the CHNA provide the proposal to the Greenways Committee at their March 18th meeting, along with a request for their approval and support. To meet this date, it will be necessary to provide the proposal materials **at least two weeks in advance**.

Issue raised by Council Members during discussions

Various Councillors have raised concerns about some aspects of the Community Garden initiative, and these must be dealt with either in the proposal, or by speaking to the relevant individuals prior to presentation of the proposal. The issues include:

- Water
- Management
- Fees and potential cash flow
- Liability

The water issue is under active investigation and we hope to nail down a solution soon. We still need to deal with the other issues. Owen Plowman will deal with liability and was provided with material by Karen Wristen on this subject.

Presentation to Council: March 22

We aim to present our proposal to Council on March 22nd. This should not be an issue if we've been able to present at the Greenways Committee meeting on March 18th.

(Notes by Owen Plowman)