

## HCGN Knowledge Swap Series - Meeting Minutes

<b>Topic:</b>	Zoning and City Policy	<b>Date:</b>	Monday, November 3, 2015
<b>Facilitator:</b>	Clare Wagner	<b>Time:</b>	4:30pm - 6:00pm
<b>Location:</b>	City Hall, Room 264	<b>Recorder:</b>	Vanessa Mestre
<b>Attendees:</b>	Clare Wagner, Vanessa Mestre, Dave Carson, Erin Davies, Edda Jaenisch, Greg Dawson, Adam Watson		
<b>Regrets</b>			

AGENDA				
#	Time	Item/Discussion Topics	Discussion Highlights	Action Item(s)
1	10 min	Welcome + Introductions		
2	1 min	Approval of Agenda		
3	30 min	<b>Zoning</b>		
		<p><i>What zoning policies exist?</i></p> <p><i>How does commercial and industrial zoning affect gardens?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New zoning and bylaw policy surrounding community gardens was brought to City Council in October</li> <li>• There was an amendment made to the initial policy document.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commercial Zoning</b> - Gardens cannot be at the front of downtown spaces along major roads. In these instances gardens are restricted to rear land or rooftops</p> <p><b>Industrial Zone</b> – growing food would be</p>	Adam will send out an updated version of the new zoning and bylaw policy to the group.

			<p>dangerous and unhealthy in sensitive land use</p> <p>To appeal a zoning bylaw you must apply for a variance from the Planning Department</p>	
4	20 min	<b>Gardening on City Property</b>		
		<p><i>What is the process for creating a garden on city property?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals who wish to build a garden on city property are referred to Public Works Dept.</li> <li>• Discussion around where they want to have the garden, goals of the project, discuss potential sites, community it would service. Ward councillor is usually involved in this process.</li> <li>• Request is reviewed with Parks and Forest &amp; Horticulture Departments to determine if there is any predestined use for the land</li> <li>• Complete and submit a garden application, this document needs a minimum of 4-6 people and signatories must be replaced if an individual can no longer be a part of the garden committee</li> <li>• Approval regarding real estate of the garden site is issued by portfolio management committee</li> <li>• Site visit to determine what services are needed (eg. Water access, license agreement, insurance obligations, fencing, signage)</li> <li>• <b>A garden group does not have to be an incorporated association</b></li> <li>• Community members starting a</li> </ul>	

			garden should consult a lawyer regarding responsibilities they are taking on	
5	20 min	<b>Urban Farming vs. Community Gardens</b>		
		<i>What are the key differences?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In an urban farm the produce can be sold and the sites are usually larger than 1 acre</li> <li>• Community garden produce is grown and donated by individuals working in the garden</li> </ul> <p>Note: Composting on garden site – maximum number of composters is 2 bins, bylaw has fined some gardens in Hamilton for exceeding this limit</p>	
6	10 min	<b>Action Items Going Forward</b>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land beneath hydro poles, is this an area of land that could be used for urban agriculture</li> <li>• Largest area of unused land in the city was historically heavily sprayed by commercial pesticides, we would have to look into the history of the land use</li> <li>• Clare and Vanessa will approach Toronto Community Gardens to inquire about bylaws and process of approaching hydro company</li> <li>• Adam will send out an updated version of the new zoning and bylaw policy to the group.</li> </ul>		

### Next Meeting:

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Funding and Budgeting:</b> We will compare budgeting documents and templates and discuss strategies for managing money.				
<b>Date</b>	Wednesday Nov 26, 2014	<b>Time</b>	4:30pm - 6:30pm	<b>Location</b>	City Hall, Rm 264