

NWEP Meeting

July 9, 2009

Meeting called to order @ 7:10pm

Introduction – 12 people in attendance

Review of minutes

- No issues found, minutes accepted

Society Status: Update

- Review of first Directors Meeting minutes
- AGM aiming for end of September/beginning of October
- Elections for Directors will be at AGM, current ones intern
- Membership fee of \$5/year will be collected in the coming weeks when we establish a bank account
- Directors Meeting minutes will be appended to general meeting minutes

Community Gardens

- Council has directed staff to examine possible city land available for community gardens

Update from Community Gardens meeting

- Create a checklist of criteria for a garden site for the city's process
- Working on a community mapping project to find sites in parallel with city efforts
- There are some grant deadlines coming up so time is important
- Community garden group could be under NWEP Society until they fully establish their society
- Feeling at this meeting is NWEP is willing to undertake this partnership

Royal City Farmers' Market

- NWEP has a booth on July 30 & a date in September, volunteers needed

Other Recent Initiatives

Queensweep

- A lot of fun, had a booth and did a lot of good outreach
- Tristan beat his personal best for garbage pickup 😊

Sapperton Day

- Did a lot of outreach on Central Valley Greenway and transportation issues
- Ran out of brochures we did so well

Global Rejection of GM Wheat

- Gavin was asked to sign this on behalf of the group

Pedestrian Cycling Discussion

- Tristan did a good job talking about the Queensborough Pedestrian Bridge for the newspaper article
- Could transform community, liveability, sustainability and unifying the communities
- NWEF should support this initiative, and as a low level bridge to be usable

Central Valley Greenway

- Opening was June 27th
- Fantastic turnout, over 100 riders left from New Westminster on the ride of the opening
- The route seems to be well used as people are still trying it out

Anti-idling & Cosmetic Pesticide by-laws

- Anti-idling is now in force, signs are up around
- Cosmetic Pesticide by-law has been passed but will not be enforced until next spring

Environmental Committee members update

- City multi-unit housing contract coming up for renewal, push for expanded recycling including refundable bottle, however this is limited do to stewardship rules by province
- Curbside composting prototype program beginning only for single occupancy houses at this time

Worm bins

- There have been requests for worms from people who's worms have died over the winter
- NWEF could help become a source of local worms through members (ie. Andrew) who have an excess
- Put a link on our website, "Need Worms?" for people looking for worms

Multi-family composting

- NWEF should promote the notion of multi-family dwelling composting
- From experience it's always good to have one person in charge to ensure things like contamination doesn't occur
- How does it work in other cities that have had it for a long time?
- Current cities: Bellingham, Halifax, Toronto (poor example)

Recycling

- NW Recycle depot is yet again taking plastic bags

Upcoming Events/Opportunities

Fraserfest 2009

- Look at doing the tap water challenge again, bottled water vs. Filtered tap water
- Metro Vancouver will also have a booth talking about tap water
- Still looking for volunteers
- Andrew Murray has tables, chairs and tent for us

- Creating a tap water display
- Display article about proposed pedestrian bridge at booth
- We could also look at the Recycling Challenge for this or a future event

Courses: Food Security

- Several upcoming courses such as Beescaping (July 18), What can I plant now? (July 25)
- Urban Chicken course on July 19th (10am-noon)

OCP Amendment for Westminster Pier

- City has requested us to review and comment on OCP Amendment for Westminster Pier

Speaker: David Tracey, author of Guerrilla Gardening: A Manifesto

- Central Lodge, Queens Park, July 14, 7:30pm

Green Drinks

- First Wednesday of every month as usual
- Is there was way to expand it and reach out to young professionals in the environmental field to attend?

Drive in Movie

- As part of Show and Shine there will be a drive in movie down on the Larco land
- Patrick will try to organize a ride to this event to show there's more than one way to get to such an event

Recent Ideas

Light Pollution

- Should NWEF push to help fight light pollution, such as the auto dealerships in the 12th St area
- Scott will talk with Matt Lorenzi who is passionate about these issues
- What have other jurisdictions done to address this issue?

NWEF Communications

- Has it been overwhelming on the chat list?
- There is a digest mode which only sends one email out per day
- Matt will send a reminder about digest setting for mailing list
- Setup a set of forums on our website
- We have a wiki on our website which Matthew will remind people about
- Matt will adjust the mailing list settings so replies go to sender instead of the list
- Matt will ensure the minutes are updated on the website

Volunteer Coordinator

- With Tristan leaving for school in the fall we will need a new volunteer coordinator

Bus Stop Shelters

- Where are the important/priority locations that they should go
- Marion will follow-up with Roger from the city about where the city is looking at

Past Ideas

NWSS

- High school is moving towards a plan on rebuilding the high school, not yet public
- It's a central point in the community, when it becomes public NWEF should push on design (LEED Gold), transportation issues around the school (sustainable transportation to school)
- Didn't the provincial government mandate all new public buildings be LEED Gold?
- Is this a "provincial" building?

Sustainable Building Advisor training program

- 9 month, 2 days a month program to become a sustainable building advisor
- Beth will be taking the course in September
- Designed for professionals but is open to anyone

City Electric Bills by email

- Bridgette was investigating but not sure where it was left when she moved

Resumption of Quarterly Challenges

- Is there interest in resumption?

Shore Line Cleanup

- Are we interested in participating again in the fall?
- In the past we partnered with another group, we didn't initiate it but simply provided person power

Action Items

- Tristan will look for people for FraserFest, and needs to find a Brita Filter (Scott will assist)
- Patrick will send an email about the drive in movie bike ride
- Patrick will work to get more professionals out to Green Drinks
- Andrew will follow up with Gavin on Global Wheat rejections
- Andrew will send out an email on OCP amendments on Westminster Pier
- Marion will send out an email about priority bus shelter locations
- Tristan will send out an email about volunteers for Farmers' Market
- Matt will send a reminder about digest setting for mailing list
- We have a wiki on our website which Matthew will remind people about it
- Matt will adjust the mailing list settings so replies go to sender instead of the list
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Adjourned – 8:58pm