

NWEP Regular Meeting

November 10, 2009

Meeting called to order @ 7:10pm

Attendance – 12 people

Review of Minutes

- Tabled until next meeting

Initiation of Jennifer Lukyanchuk

- She has the flu and sent her regrets
- Patrick passed along details from a conversation with her
- Asked if there's any projects on the go we can help with lobbying or partnership on
- Budgets haven't been passed yet so there's nothing at this time
- She thanks us for helping with the promotion of anti-idling by-law
- Cosmetic pesticide ban comes in to effect March 2010, education campaign ramping up
- Planning workshops to help educate about alternatives to pesticides
- Will try to attend next meeting to give us an update

Update on Society Status

- Had AGM and directors were elects, board met for first time on the weekend
- Positions decided:

President - Patrick Johnstone

Vice-President – Matthew Laird

Treasurer – Matt Lorenzi

Secretary – Andrew Feltham

- Discussed vision for directorship, reiterated directors are not running the show and we are only there to help facilitate the society part of the organization

In the Community

Age of Stupid Screening

- 150 people attended, a sellout
- Likely profit after costs will be about \$50-100
- Discussion after the movie was outstanding, a great animated discussion
- Mark's leadership on the discussion was fantastic
- A thank you to Beth for organizing the event

Community Garden Update

- Resolution from Community and Social Action Committee went to council
- Part of resolution regarding seed funding was stripped and sent on to budget committee
- Resolution was endorsed by committee

- Name New Westminster Community Gardening Society was accepted, society status pending
 - Fund raising and governance committees have been struck
 - Some preliminary design (without city involvement) was done on City Hall lawn site, estimates 63 4x20 plots could be built
 - Wording of resolution commits city to establish 4 community gardens, one in each of the four identified quadrants by the city, by 2011
- Motion:** That NWEF donate \$50 to the New Westminster Community Gardening Society as seed funding. **Passed.**

Royal City Farmers Market

- Goal was to increase attendance and sales by 10% this year, easily beat that
- Vendors were up 30% this year
- Winter market pilot project moving ahead, one per month, first at December 12th, then January 9th
- Each market will have a theme
- Surveying shows there's strong demand for a winter market
- At Holy Trinity Church, indoor/outdoor venue
- Hours 10am-2pm

Bridge to a Cool Planet

- Well attended event, a few thousand with a good NWEF presence
- NWEF members marched with NWEF banner
- Message sent, if politicians are listening

Bike to Work Week

- NW VACC had a table on Friday, Nov 9th
- Year before went 70, this year there were 50, but weather was much better last year

Family Days

- Well attended, we should have more focus on kids for next year (colouring contest, etc)

Possible Initiatives

Waste Reduction

- Opportunities in NW to address issue in meaningful way
- Metro Vancouver talking about waste reduction in a big way
- A lot of the focus is on single family who do have the opportunity to compost but not much on multi-family where they don't have yards
- NWEF should engage City on new garbage trucks to pressure them to address technological issues causing them to lean towards larger bin sizes
- Perhaps a call for proposals for stratas or coops who might be willing to be part of a pilot project for composting pickup, and encourage city to take on this pilot project

- New West with the higher proportion of renters and strata ownership in the region will have to be at the forefront of pushing multi-family composting
 - Multi-family is the biggest bang for the buck, an untapped market
 - Having an organics collection point at some locations in the city
 - These collection points could feed the community gardens
 - Have recycling centre at Skytrain stations
 - For every 1lbs of trash there is 40lbs of trash behind the scenes to produce that 1lbs
 - At the end of the day we're talking about lowering taxes, reducing waste means lower costs
 - There should be a cost difference between 120L vs. 180L
 - Press release in the making, how does the City's plan to go with 180L cans jive with a Zero Waste/Waste Reduction strategy
 - Something like a request to council "We would like the City to put together a comprehensive waste reduction plan" backed up with stats and examples of successful programs
 - Citizens in many ways are ahead of Council, need to rally citizens to push council to catch up
- Action Item:** Form a working group to continue moving this topic forward, to "Talk Trash" (initiated by Ginny and Jane)

Sustainability Community Breakfast and MV Waste Reduction Workshop

- Upcoming MV workshop in Coquitlam (Wed, November 18th)
- Vancouver Sustainability Breakfast

Energy

- How do we approach the city about items like the Canada Games Pool?
- Some municipalities are establishing by-laws requiring new homes to be solar hot water ready, including items like ensuring roof pitches are at the correct angle for optimal solar energy collection

Downtown Community Plan

- City is in the final phase of the new Downtown Community Plan
- Very important for the sustainability of the entire city and ensuring it's done right
- Encourage people to review and comment

Opportunities/Issues

City Hall Parking

- City Hall parking is still free
- There is a lot of unhappiness about 7-day a week parking meters in the city, why does City Hall get free parking?
- Parking passes or some kind of discouragement to parking
- Staff travel allowance? Ie \$40/month per employee, btw parking now costs \$50/month
- How do we engage the city on this issue without making enemies in City Hall?
- Some staff pay for their cars via mileage, via very generous mileage rates, in the long term going to a model like CanCars for staff fleet cars would in the long term be cheaper for taxpayers

Evergreen Line

- Should NWEF write a letter endorsing the Evergreen Line?

Motion: The NWEF write a letter to Provincial and Federal governments, and all other appropriate agencies, promoting expedient implementation of the Evergreen Line. **Passed.**

Green Drinks

- Ongoing

- In the Leader, Peter will try to get it in The Record

Action Items

Action Item: Form a working group to continue moving this topic forward, to "Talk Trash" (initiated by Ginny and Jane)

Action Item: Andrew will write the letter about the Evergreen Line.

Motions

Motion: That NWEF donate \$50 to the New Westminster Community Gardening Society as seed funding.
Passed.

Motion: The NWEF write a letter to Provincial and Federal governments, and all other appropriate agencies, promoting expedient implementation of the Evergreen Line. **Passed.**

Adjourned – 9:03pm