

NWEP Meeting

April 14, 2010

Meeting called to order @ 7:12pm

Introduction – 9 people in attendance

Review of minutes

- Tabled

Update on Society (Patrick)

- Reminder Directors aren't here to direct but to facilitate
- Directors met last week
- Dianne left New Westminster and has resigned, we'll leave the seat empty for now
- Planning by-monthly director meetings, followed each following month by a regular meeting leading to 6 directors, 5 regular and one AGM per year, targeted around the second Tuesday of the month
- Because we are a society now we do have a membership fee, directors discussed how to track who joins, who's paid and who is membership in general
- Discussed how to engage the membership and get more people involved beyond the core group who tend to do everything
- Discussed updating the website, converting Facebook to a page, tweeting more, etc, make NWEP more interactive with the community
- A lot of good press around the TrashTalking group

Community Involvement

Zero Waste Challenge (Jane)

- Success (March 15) that council went for a 120L bin, however green bin for organics won't come in until January
- Likely more success with people diverting garbage if they have somewhere to put it
- Only a 240L bin for green waste, without option for a smaller, more manageable bin, or for those who are composting already who don't need such a large bin
- Proud of City for taking a bold stance on the 120L bin
- Would like to continue messaging about 120 vs 240L bins for Green Waste, could we use public events for this?
- Completed 5 weeks of base line data for Zero Waste Challenge
- Got organized with composters, more delivered from the city
- Need to find a place to put second green cone digester
- In to week 2 of the Challenge, inputting data
- One house it was the first week using their composter and their garbage was cut in half
- The Zero Waste group has a blog as well about their efforts
- TrashTalk group will continue to pursue 240L bin issues to convince City that this is not the best option for waste reduction

- Issue is removing glass from the recycling stream, what will that mean if people have to take glass to the recycling depot

Community Gardens

- There's a community garden event tonight about for the Simcoe Park community gardens
- There was an event last night regarding a New West fruit tree program
- Based on the Vancouver fruit tree program which moved 7,000lbs of fruit last year
- There are hundreds of fruit trees which aren't harvested and the program pursues putting this unused fruit to use
- Community Garden group is accepting donations of old gardening tools
- They have an upcoming work party to build the fence around the Simcoe Park site

Royal City Farmers Market

- Last Winter Market this Saturday, stock up for the spring
- First summer market in June, lots of fun events plans

Auto-Obesity

- A BEST program that takes your car from you, gives you a tax receipt and training to live carless
- They have an outreach program they come out and give a presentation; NWEF will host an event this spring
- Event was suppose to be tonight however the original contact has left BEST and we'll aim to reschedule in May

Pamphlets

- We need to update pamphlets for spring events with accomplishments for the year, initiatives, etc

Local Events

Queensweep

- April 25th at Queensborough Community Centre
- Bodies needed to come out, Cynthia has booked us
- Could this be an opportunity to sort and weigh trash?
- Take a sample of the garbage to sample it

Smart Gardening Workship

- On the same weekend as Queensweep is an organic gardening workshop at the library

Earth Day

- TD is having an Earth Day event at their new branch in Columbia Square
- Thursday April 22, day event during the week, difficult for us to get to
- Opportunity to reach out to our greater membership, to help Jennifer who will be there part of the day

Sapperton Day

- In June, NWEF is aiming to be there
- Hopefully Sapperton Zero Waste Challenge will be up and running by then
- Love to see worm composter and City's proposed bins at this event
- Take a survey of bin size there?

Farmland Defence League fundraiser

- April 18th at Lafflines
- 7pm, \$20
- Could NWEF get a table there?

Other Recent Issues

Ladysmith organics

- An engineer at the City of Ladysmith who has a very successful organics & diversion program
- Offered to come give a talk to the City and staff about their program
- Dates didn't work out unfortunately, but his council meetings conflicted with NW council meeting dates
- It could still be useful to have him out to talk about Green Bin size and help with the education on organics and diversions programs
- Another potential audience would be Green Drinks

Simcoe Park Community Garden

- Its going ahead, City will be putting in a water line this week
- City will survey the plots
- Fence building party this weekend

River Market at the Quay

- We're assuming the market will have organic bins like Granville Island
- Could we push their food court to mandate only biodegradable food containers at the minimum or real plates at the best

Recycling of fluorescent tubes

- Brought up in the past on the chat list
- Province taking on this issue
- We should keep an eye on this issue to ensure information gets out there
- Next up for stewardship programs by the province are all "corded devices" (anything that plugs in to the wall, all batteries, all smoke detectors)

Other Opportunities

Evergreen Line endorsement

- At last meeting we spoke of supporting the Evergreen Line in general
- Draft letter circulated
- Support around the table for the letter and the project

- Letter will be sent to Premier, Minister of Transportation, MLAs, MP, City, Translink, etc

City Hall Parking

- Promote the idea that City Hall should take the lead on alternative transportation by charging for parking and cash out opportunities for alternative transportation
- Good initiative to take to council
- Could we challenge council to give up their parking pass in exchange for a bus pass?
- Challenge the council to get involved with active transportation
- Only 2 members of Vancouver City Council are still drivers and are taking VACC Cycling course, pass these articles on to NW Council?
- Review of City's Master transportation plan happening this year, this could be our opportunity to address this issue
- We need to take a position on what we mean by Transportation Planning
- NWEF Transportation group needs to awake and get involved in this issue

Zero Waste Picnic

- Brigitte organized the first one but she's no longer here
- When? After Sapperton Days, summer event?
- Promote at Sapperton Day?

Green Drinks

- Well attended last week
- Lots of new faces, the newspaper article likely helped
- Promote it next month to get more bodies out
- Idea about having a guest talk at Green Drinks
- Somewhat unstructured, specialist in a field talk for 15-20 minutes then make it an interactive discussion

Action Items

- Patrick talk to Jennifer about Queensweep
- Andrew talk to Jennifer about Earth Day at TD
- Marcel will connect Matt Lorenzi to River Market to discuss organics issue
- Andrew will finish Evergreen letter
- Scott will see about library availability for Auto-Obesity
- Jane will follow up with Jennifer about next steps for trash, bins, etc
- Andrew & Matt will talk about the transportation list and getting it ready for the Transportation master plan review