



Goldenrod
Community
Garden



Annual General Meeting

12 October 2022



Agenda

Time	Item
7:00pm	Welcome and introductions
7:10	Annual Report to the members
7:45	Financial update
8:00	Board election
8:15	Other business
8:30	Adjournment



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Welcome





GCG's Board of Directors, 2021-22

In 2021, the membership elected the first Board:

- President - Sara Chen-Wing
- Secretary - Vacant
- Treasurer - Tanya Salewski
- Registrar - Barbara Sharp
- Member - Matt Doody
- Member - Susan McClelland

During 2022, 4 members of the Board decided to step away.



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Annual Report to Members



Vision

We envision a garden community in Kitchissippi that:

1. **Supports relationships, mental health and well being:** This garden community is supported through a physical space where people can gather, garden together and hold events.
2. **Stewards the environment, provides connection with nature, and restores relationships with the land** (birds, flowers, trees, insects): the space is beautiful, operations are sustainable (including water source).
3. **Provides opportunities to give** (e.g., donating to the community fridge), and receive.
4. **Is inclusive and diverse:** Indigenous people and values are included; there is diversity in income, age, ethnicity, gender, culture, religion, abilities, gardening approaches.
5. **Provides opportunity to educate and learn in community:** on gardening, food, and other related topics.



Overview of 2021-2022 Highlights

- Conducted a visioning exercise and surveyed membership
- Negotiated, planned and built Phase 2 plots
- Installed a pollinator garden
- Ran a compost pilot project
- Secured TD Environmental Leaders Program grant through University of Ottawa
- Developed GCG's operational framework
 - Revised Bylaws, SOPs, committee mandates and Membership Agreement



Partnership Engagement Update

Ongoing dialogue and communication with partners:

- Just Food
- Somerset West Community Health Centre
- Parkdale Food Centre
- Ottawa Community Housing
- National Capital Commission (NCC)



Committees

- Communications
- Events (previously Engagement)
- Membership
- Properties (previously Build)
- Fundraising
- Pollinator Garden



Communications

- Monitored inbox
- Managed media correspondence
- Produced monthly newsletter and ad hoc bulletins
- Maintained social media channels:





Events

- Organized garden opening, Indigenous garden education session, composting workshop
- Provided Board of Directors logistics support for AGMs (2021 and 2022)
- Created garden close out instruction guide



Membership

- Organized and coordinated the visioning process
- In conjunction with the Events Committee, conducted membership survey
- Promoted CGC's Goldenrod commitment to remove barriers to gardening through outreach to partner organisations
- Updated and streamlined the membership agreement



Membership Update

- Plot-holders (80 Phase 1 plots + 40 Phase 2 plots)
 - Returning members: 58 (72% of 2021 plot-holders)
 - New members (Phase 1): 21
 - New members (Phase 2): 28
 - Temporary second plots: 13
- Community Partner (sliding scale) plots:
 - Returning members: 7
 - New members: 5
 - Total: 12 (10% of plots - target is 20%)
- Friends: 21



Waiting List

- Total waiting list at April 2022: 89
- Plot offers (everyone on waiting list was offered a plot)
 - Plot offer accepted: 48
 - Plot offer rejected: 6
 - Stay on list for next year: 8
 - No response: 25
- Community partner waiting list (through Parkdale Food Centre)
 - Offer accepted: 2
 - Offer rejected: 1 (too hard to get to garden)
- Total waiting list at October 2022: 26



Fundraising

- Initiated, wrote and submitted successful application to TD Environmental Leaders Program, for grant for 3 projects undertaken by UoO student volunteers:
 - Sustainable water collection/harvesting
 - Seating options
 - Pollinator garden-related activities
- Accepted a generous donation from the grade 6 students of St. George School who raised money by selling plants



Pollinator Garden

- Researched and developed plant lists for 2 pollinator gardens - focus on native plants, local to Ottawa region
- Identified local sources of native plants
- Planned, constructed and planted PG #1 in May 2022
- Engaged volunteers in maintenance of PG throughout summer
- Coordinated with student volunteers from UofO on pollinator projects



GCG Needs You!

- A tremendous thank you to all of the volunteers who helped move the garden forward this year!
- GCG would not be where it is today without your help.
- **But we need more volunteers**
 - Keep the garden and activities running
 - Avoid burning out small group of regular volunteers
 - Shape the garden for the short and long-term

Please consider volunteering to help with a Committee, the Board or helping on weekends

Opportunities available for any level of time commitment



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Financial update

Report from the Treasurer

Tanya Salewski

Key Activities and Achievements of 2022



- Developed an annual budget and work plan
- Developed and documented detailed financial accountability principles and practices in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)
- Made payments, maintained the general ledger and tracked all funds in and out
- Produced regular financial reports to the Board



Treasurer's Report to the Membership

For the period of 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022

Category	Budgeted	Actual	Variance
<i>Carry-forward balance</i>		\$ 12,264.11	
Revenue	\$ 29,010.50	\$ 20,046.65	\$ 8,963.85
<i>From grant – Just Food</i>	\$ 15,170.50	\$ 12,334.08	\$ 2,836.42
<i>From grant – UOtt / TD Env</i>	\$ 7,700.00	\$ -	\$ 7,700.00
<i>From donations</i>	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,553.98	\$ (1,053.98)
<i>From plot fees</i>	\$ 5,640.00	\$ 6,158.59	\$ (518.59)
Expenses	\$ 28,025.52	\$ 14,385.78	\$ 14,156.02
<i>Build – Just Food</i>	\$ 15,170.52	\$ 10,315.84	\$ 4,854.68
<i>Build – UOtt / TD Env</i>	\$ 7,700.00	\$ 1,161.22	\$ 6,538.78
<i>Maintenance & operations</i>	\$ 2,670.00	\$ 2,240.37	\$ 945.91
<i>Capital costs</i>	\$ 450.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 450.00
<i>Administration</i>	\$ 2,035.00	\$ 668.35	\$ 1,366.65
Closing Balance (30 September 2022)	\$ 984.98	\$ 5,660.87	\$ (4,675.89)
<i>Balance (Account)</i>		\$ 17,924.98	

Takeaways from the Financial Report

- Overall, GCG in excellent financial position
- Over last year, took in less and spent less than budgeted, because:
 - Just Food paid directly for soil and aggregates - deducted this from their grant
 - Expenditure on the UOtt/TD Environment grant not yet been reimbursed
 - Also challenges with spending grant funds in a timely way
 - Fewer events held than planned -> lower administration costs
 - Some build activities planned for completion in late October
- Significant surplus of money means GCG in good position for future years
 - Improve garden infrastructure
 - Hold more events
 - Review annual fees



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Board election

Matt Doody



Candidates for the New Board

- Term of 12 months, until the next AGM (October 2023)
- Board has a maximum of 9 members, and a minimum of 4
 - Roles (ie, Secretary, President, Treasurer, etc.) can be decided by the Board members at the first meeting, and can be shared



Other Business

- Membership vote on revised bylaws
- Richcraft proposal for community garden



Revisions to the Bylaws

- Bylaws have been overhauled to align them more closely with the requirements of the Government of Ontario for non-profit organization bylaws, and provide an adequate level of detail on key organization governance processes.
- The most important changes include:
 - Addition of Articles that describe the purposes of the garden
 - Inclusion of clear definitions of key terms and of the different kinds of members
 - Sets out a clear and transparent process for termination of membership



Revisions to the Bylaws

- Most important changes (continued)
 - More detail on Board functioning, meetings and decision-making
 - Description of Board officer positions
 - Updates and more detail on membership meetings:
 - meeting agendas
 - how meetings can be called
 - providing notice of meetings, quorum, and voting
 - process for amending by-laws



Richcraft Proposal

- Richcraft proposing to include a community garden as part of development at Parkdale/Bullman Ave
- GCG has been approached as potential manager/coordinator for site
- Company would pay for build and cover insurance
- Water will be available from Day 1
- Opening date, number of plots still to be determined



Closing Weekend

Saturday 22 October (rain date 23 October)

- Please come out and help:
 - Complete Phase 2 build
 - Prepare garden for the winter
 - Chop up the compost

Look out for more information soon....