

GREN Minutes for Wednesday November 18

St. John's Kitchen, 97 Victoria St N, Kitchener

Financial Status (Theo): \$1060.55 in bank.

GREN Listserves (Theo): 7Gen forwarding is no longer available. 3 new mailing lists have been created: (a) GREN All; (b) GREN members; (c) pipeline.

Lulu will use her website to disseminate information.

Website: The events calendar is built but needs to be integrated into the website. GREN is looking for someone to be in charge of updating it. Ideas for updating are welcome. (Please contact Susan K who has done a great job on the website).

Guest Speaker: Jason Hammon for Grand River Car Share

“Access to vehicles without the cost and hassle of owning your own”

website: www.grandrivercarshare.ca

email: info@grandrivercarshare.ca

519-578-1895

What is “Car Sharing”?

The concept of sharing a car satisfies a market need for temporary or intermittent access to a vehicle. Sharing a care may save you money if you have a vehicle that is driven less than 12,000 km/yr. Grand River Car Share currently has a fleet of 15 vehicles of different sizes and shapes to suit different needs. Cars are located primarily along the central corridor.

Grand River Car Share is a nonprofit co-operative with 300 members, where one member=one vote. There are currently 3 full-time staff and a volunteer board of directors.

How does it work?

Self-serve: You are given a key from a lock box; enter security code inside car; do circle check; drive away; return to station with at least ½ tank of gas; complete trip log and secure vehicle keys; cancel any excess reservation time. Reservations can be made 24 hours/day, 7 days/week

Rates:

\$3.70/hr + 0.27/km weekday

\$4.20/hr + 0.27/km weekend

24 hour rate - \$64 + .17/km

Fixed costs

\$14/month insurance

\$25 application fee

Members

Associate members - 16yrs+

Driving members - 21yrs+

Corporate and non-profit members

Fully refundable deposit of membership:
\$10 associate
\$400 driving membership
\$100 additional driver
\$500 non-profit member
\$700 corporate membership

Greenbelt & Waterloo Region ROP Committee

On Thursday November 19 there was a public meeting on ESL (Environmentally Sensitive Landscapes) at St. Clements community centre. It was noted that farmers have not been supportive of ROPP due to a variety of issues: liability of people camping and skating on ponds; snowmobiling, hunting; citizens and pets trespassing; valuation of property may decrease with ESL designation.

Pipeline Committee (Susan B & John J)

The committee met Friday, Nov 13. This may be a municipal election (Nov 2010) issue. Aggressive water conservation can halve water demand. Obstacles in perception to not having pipeline must be understood and addressed. GLU is looking for 2 communities to model water conservation and funding for an organizer. Waterloo Region is being considered as a model community. Future committee plans include: making contacts with the communities downstream to open dialogue, creating one page fact sheets, identifying allies, determining whether the permit for the pipeline can be challenged, determining the decision-making process for the pipeline.

GREN role during 2010 municipal elections

Susan Koswan and Theo Negoita will coordinate questionnaire for the municipal elections. Please forward ideas to Susan K. A report card of candidates regarding environmental views will be compiled from responses to these questionnaires.

Light Rail Transit

This will be a municipal election issue. There are two central issues for GREN:

1. Is the promotion of public transit consistent with the Mission Statement and Guiding Principles of GREN? (see below) GREN goals include: "Reduce private car use by improving infrastructure to support human-powered (walk/bike) and public transportation," "Measurably reduce toxics use and toxic and climate-changing emissions (land, water and air)".
2. Is Light Rail Transit (LRT) the best option for Waterloo Region?

Politicians have made it clear that without federal or provincial infrastructure money, there will be no light rail. GREN proposes to have a substantial discussion on this issue where the statement compiled by Susan Koswan will be discussed. GREN members need to determine the importance of this issue, and define environmental values which are consistent with public transit in general, and light rail transit in particular.

GREN Christmas Party: Dec 9, 7 pm, Susan and Darrol Bryant, 5 Park Avenue West, Elmira, ON N3B 1K9. Bring friends, bring finger foods, RSVP please.

Next Meeting: Thursday January 21, Cambridge. The location is yet to be determined.

Meeting chaired by John Jackson: jjackson@glu.org

Minutes prepared by Carole Clinch: caclinch@gmail.com

GREN Guiding Principles

http://www.gren.ca/index_files/Page379.htm

Our Belief

We are near the carrying capacity of the essentials for life—water, air, energy, greenspace, aggregate, agricultural land and wetlands—in our communities.

Our Commitment

GREN will draw from the well of creative people in our communities to:

- find innovative ways to live better with less
- work cooperatively to promote initiatives that restore, maintain and enhance the livability of our communities
- do so for all lifeforms, for current and future generations

Our Current Goals

- Implement aggressive water conservation and reuse programs instead of planning on outside water sources, such as through a pipeline from Lake Erie to Waterloo Region.
- Preserve natural and groundwater recharge areas such as Hidden Valley, the Waterloo Moraine and the Guelph-Amabel Aquifer.
- Move our community to adopt the precautionary approach and principles of sustainability in all decision making.
- Measurably improve air quality.
- Reduce private car use by improving infrastructure to support human-powered (walk/bike) and public transportation.
- Increase production, availability and purchase of local and organic food.
- Measurably reduce toxics use and toxic and climate-changing emissions (land, water and air).
- Institute waste avoidance, reuse and recycling and composting programs to avoid disposing garbage either through landfill or incineration.
- Eliminate urban sprawl.