

GREN General Meeting June 18, 2009
Waterloo Mennonite Brethren Church, Waterloo

Minutes

Chair: Randy McDonald

Minutes by: Susan Koswan

GREN/Waterlooians FUN-raising dance – Susan K.

- Susan K – raised \$740 with combination dance/silent auction of donated gently used/re-gifted/new items, actual attendance approx. 80
- proceeds: \$40 to REEP to allay cost of donated door prize (home energy audit) won by Evelyn Decker, \$350 each to Lulu and GREN

Financial Report – Theo

- 26 paid-up members, renewal is during calendar year
- Theo will send out 2 reminders (now and early fall) to current email list 7gen@7generations.net which will be shut down October 31, 2009. If you want to be on GREN list(s), you will receive instructions how to do so with those reminders.
- GREN exec. will formulate draft policy for allowing non-members to be on list(s)
- Recommendation to have “closed” and “open” lists for paid members and non-members

Presentation: Beth Dempster (and Eric Tucs) Civics Research Co-operative

- Received Trillium Foundation funding to conduct feasibility study for Centre for Community Innovation and Design in Waterloo Region – local models are Centre for Social Innovation in Toronto <http://socialinnovation.ca/> , 10 Carden St. Guelph www.10carden.ca
- ACTION ITEM FOR GREN MEMBERS:
Complete survey www.civics.ca/ccid or www.civics.ca/ccid/surveys; and/or
Participate in workshop – either with REEP (June 29? during day) or just with GREN members – Beth will post email to list for feedback – would like 10 – 15 GREN members – we can pick our time, but should be done before fall
- Flexibility in amount of involvement, will be determined by this study, need community groups to confirm interest, some centres are theme-based (arts/environment)

Updates

ROPP – Kevin

- ROPP is very progressive 25 year plan for Region; province wants to use it as template
- Regional council approved, but deferred protected countryside line decision for 6 – 7 months pending further consultation (i.e. developers, farmers unhappy with the line claiming they weren't given adequate time/opportunities to comment/be informed)
- Our concern that it will mirror ESL process which was highly adversarial – developers vs environmentalists
- Reminder that Region's 2003 Growth Management Strategy Plan already committed to “permanent countryside line”
- ACTION ITEM FOR GREN MEMBERS – write letters, op/ed pieces in support of ROPP

Waterloo Golf Academy – Deb S.

- City of Waterloo did not renew their lease; not a breach of contract as some have claimed

LRT

- June 24 final vote, expected to pass, Waterloo spur will be on existing rail to U of Waterloo, NOT on King St., BRT to Cambridge
- Still getting negative press
- ACTION ITEM FOR GREN MEMBERS – write supportive letters
- Point of interest – in Dresden, the LRT is also used to transport freight to Volkswagon plant

Presentation: Carole Clinch Water Fluoridation

- <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=6404348583>
- Fluoride is toxic, bioaccumulative, provides no health benefit at levels ingested
- Timing and dosage are both critical; acute and chronic toxicities include dental fluorosis, thyroid problems, arthritic pain
- Halton is only community with stats – shows 42% of children have dental fluorosis
- Naturally occurring fluoride is NOT used. Hydrofluosilicic acid, a hazardous, industrial waste chemical, contaminated with lead and arsenic is used. Ninety-nine percent of it is released into environment through our treated municipal water
- Dean study used to justify use has been re-evaluated and discredited – cherry-picked data but use continues
- No difference in tooth decay/dental caries in communities with or w/o fluoridation

Added by Robert F: www.waterloowatch.com

- City of Waterloo's upcoming referendum not legally binding - Fluoridation Act cedes authority to upper tier
- Dental community is uneducated in issue
- ACTION ITEM FOR GREN MEMBERS: discuss issue with dentists

Meeting Adjourned 9:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday September 16, 2009, St. John's Kitchen, 2nd Floor, 97 Victoria St. N.
Kitchener 7:15 – 9:15 p.m.

Check out the website at www.gren.ca