GATO – Brainstorming Results

Engagement – Community & Renters

Challenges

* Too many events for # volunteers
* Summer is very busy and difficult to get volunteers to show up – also difficult to get community members to come to workshops etc
* Creating awareness in community about garden in community
* Advertising to get people to come to events/workshops

Successes

* When renters register they have to sign up for a job for 1 month each
* Workbees
* Every plot has to take turns watering everyone’s plots
* Advertise garden events/cub in community newsletter/website
* Get kids involved and it brings parents then kids have some ownership in garden
* Scouts/Guides/Brownies
* No plots rather get garden share so everything, including work, is shared
* School based – summer garden club needs someone to water and maintain in summer months – make it a social thing!
* Reach out to other organizations that can bring gardeners to our garden eg. Edmonton Permacultures
* Advertising working together with local farmers markets to get idea of community gardens in neighbourhoods out there

Financial Self Sustainability

Challenges

* Funds from community league
* Lack of volunteers to fundraise
* Not getting enough renters/gardeners
* Water costs high

Successes

* Share fundraising events with other gardens
* More plots = more $$$
* Fundscript
* Mushroom compost sales through SFE
* Water meter to fire hydrant – reduces cost of water
* Under umbrella of community league = no insurance cost
* Community league provides seed money
* Grant money – grant writer ATB
* Money donations form community members
* Donations of equipment
* AG Society covers overages and some costs
* Rent cover basics (school water use)
* Use rink water
* Need to find a garden angel
* Businesses – sponsorship with signage at garden
* Businesses to donate $$
* Compost sale/plant sale
* Low or no water costs- rentals keep garden sustainable
* Silent auction et events
* Concert in garden with wine etc

Theft

Challenges

* Tools lying around invite theft
* Strangers (like Accidental Beach)
* Homeless people in urban areas
* Shed – not a permanent structure and easy to vandalize/steal
* Deductible limits too high
* Concern over security of people gardening in some situations
* In camera view (school sites)
* Having a fence and optics of barrier
* Set times for gardening – creates barriers

Successes

* All chained up
* Closed social media to anyone but members
* Limited social media during growing season to not invite theft
* Locked and only authorized users have code/access
* Fenced in rink area
* Parking program via city to deter people
* A help yourself bed
* Solar powered motion lighting
* Fenced in/gate
* Signage telling people they are paid for plots
* Set time and make it social
* Secluded from road
* Small tool box access versus the entire shed
* Protect high reward/theft items
* Use shed as a communication tool

Water

Challenges

* Pay significantly for water
* Could use run off of a school but EPSB not cooperative
* Filling water form a school as frequently as required
* Water hogs/water overuse
* Awareness and education with kids specifically
* Maintenance of complex watering solutions

Successes

* Orientation each season
* Online youtube video for orientation
* For shared plots – water me or don’t water me signs
* Solicit a bingo as a group
* Off of shed into barrels
* No charge from school or rink or community
* Sistern system
* Arrange a conservation speaker regarding water use
* Water bottles used to fill and rotate via the Food Bank
* Solar panels
* Portion of harvest – communal
* Pump from a pond
* Self watering beds and infrastructure

Food Sustainability & Security

Challenges

* Engagement beyond the garden/renter
* Need a p[roper avenue to share/achieve to who needs it
* Surplus produce that food bank will not take
* Stigma/pride of receiver
* Utilization of food
* Volunteer time and hours needed
* Limited are and space
* Seed saving
* Self managed/well though out
* Food Bank – choosey about quality
* Storage space and portability
* Shelf life of food
* Reduced time and cost of storage

Successes

* Signage for sharing
* Target specific charities close to garden
  + Ie. Salvation Army, YESS
* Work with a church and community league
* Use seasonal produce for teas and events
* Harvest Day for members
* Planting plan
  + Storage and planning for no waste

Ideas

* Tours of gardens
* Exchange bins
* Veggie exchange evening
* Table/food box
* Community dinners
* Harvest Festival
* Seed exchange/plant exchange
* City involvement
* Food 4 Good – able to receive?
* Food sharing – fridges, vacations
* Shared surplus between gardens
* Master Gardeners – Discussion with YEG
* Yard sharing – Food 4 Good, SFE
* People Before Plants PA
* SCIP Program – summer student grant
* Compost

Rentals

* Grants via community league for volunteer hours
* Rental Agreements – minimum to include events and time frames with set up and year end
* Picnic tables/social – attracts others
* Facebook group for group
* Pulling events from community events – piggy backing on a fun event eg. Plant sale/school event/compost sale
* Buddy gardeners
* Compost system

Rentals – Admin and Process

Challenges

* Tracking of volunteer hours
* Have fun – need to determine what your culture and what compliance looks like
* Large # = # of hours it takes ot track – tracking korello.com
* Fairness of oversubscription
* Rules/guidelines
* Cost of high deposit may deter renters
* #’s of hours volunteering
* Follow through on guidelines and policing (eg. Organic)
* Size and people’s behaviours
* Language barriers

Successes

* $100 deposit per year
* Detailed budget
* Volunteer hours = early bird registration
* APP system
* Garden coordinator
* Payment on website
* Policies and procedures
* $$ before start of season
* Co-share
* Subscription fairness
* Book in shed
* Digital form
* Schedule tasks
* Sign off rules
* APP system to track
* Use CL website to pay online
* Refundable deposit with volunteer hours
* Work bees every Saturday