

## **AMC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 22, 2025 ONLINE VIA MS TEAMS**

**PRESENT:** Karley Chafee (Staff Representative), Caitlyn Araya, Wendy Gibbons, Chloe Richer, Victoria Baranow, Laura Deboer, Michelle McIntyre, Mike McKim, Hanan Nammour, Melissa Garay, Laura Mulder, Sarah Drake, Katie Schuessler, Abby Zaitley (7:25)

**REGRETS:** Jordan Neudorf, Amanda Faulkner, Katie Moisse, Vanessa Dunn, Katie Jannsen

### **Welcome**

### **Introduction**

### **Attendance**

### **Approval of minutes:**

- Minutes approved from March; moved by Victoria Baranow and all approved.

### **Guest Speakers Hazel Cho and Marco Loberto, Children's Garden at Gage Park:**

- Hazel Cho, Co-founder and former AMC parent and Marco Loberto, Community Engagement Coordinator.
- Marco and Hazel are part of a new program: reaching out to local schools to understand how schools and parents would like to engage with The Children's Garden in the future.
- TCG began as a pandemic project when kids wanted their own gardens. Lots of support from community, councillors, city and TCG received a peacemaker grant. Everything in the garden is all taken care of children and their families. The growth was unanticipated, 2024 saw 2500 families participating. Programming was created in response to parent feedback. The children provide the most feedback and programming is in response to them.
- TCG works with Butterfly Way and other community partners providing education around gardens.
- Some events include the Fall Festival which is about harvesting, healthy eating, food, succession planting. The Garden Bedtime Bash is for planting bulbs and closing the garden. There is an attempt to cover the whole garden season.

- Thursday evening sessions to water/maintain/learn about the current state of the garden.
- Outreach from schools to do programming that schools and children are interested in and gets kids into the garden during school hours.
- 2023: offered a composting workshop - Grade 3 classes came to a workshop for three Mondays and learned about soil, home composting, regenerating the Earth. This workshop has been expanded to other schools as well.
- Let's Get Growing workshop early April to learn different elements of early planting: propagation, mushrooms, edible flowers. Then families sign up and start the garden. May 17 into the garden.
- Summer camp opportunities and programming.
- Child led, with volunteer educators.
- Seed library, story and toy share starting this spring.
- Rain barrel to teach about rainwater cycle and watering the plants.
- All programming is free, volunteer run organization supported by grants.
- What do schools want to do with field trips? What are we looking for?
- Applying for a grant to begin a booking program for 2025/26 school year.
- Karley will send an email to teachers for more feedback
- Two hour block v full day event that includes the greenhouse?
- Caitlyn offered to share information about the program on social media.
- Want to attract families that aren't aware the garden exists.
- Caitlyn, Michael and Karley to continue the conversation offline.
- Willing to do programming in the schools in addition to within the garden
- Fundraiser - 3 tickets to see and meet Shania Twain.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- Not a lot of change, report from office doesn't include cash payments
- There are a few missing payments for orders received - \$252 total. Ensuring people who don't pay don't have an order placed. Chloe sent emails to the families but doesn't recall if teachers also sent paper notes home. Veronica offered to call a couple of families in the previous fundraiser. Victoria to followup with Veronica.
- Approved items paid out: paper cutter, Valentine's Day expenses
- RideSmart May 5, AGH no date yet, Battlefield May14/15
- Followup on outstanding requests
- \$4353.17 remaining (including pending, not including \$252)

**Principal's Report (delivered by Caitlyn):**

- Caitlyn asked for Principal Willet's last day - still unknown.
- Sound system; no definitive answer but looking for a less permanent installation (\$5000), or perhaps return purchased equipment. Abby is following this item.
- Outdoor Garden progressing well with stone moving in the summer.
- Blacktop painting: tomorrow morning it will be repainted.
- Fundraising for sound system could be done via movie nights.

**Teacher Report:**

- Open House May 22 - music performance will not be happening, Miss Pierroz is planning Music Monday and virtual concert.
- Mr. Kiley includes all Grade 4/5 students who completed consent forms and sends a huge thank you to School Council.
- Mr Kiley/Grade 5 teachers: request for T-shirts and refreshments for Grade 5 farewell \$20/Tshirt for approximately 60 students. \$1400 total requested.

**Teacher Requests:**

- \$1465 Grade 5 Farewell: Tshirts, cake, juice boxes, light refreshments, decorations. Previously taken on by Mrs. George. Could the Grade 5s lead something - bake sale to bring in some money? Approved, Karley to let them know.
- Kindergarten Assembly Monday June 19 \$409 Moccasin Identifier - 15 minute presentation and art/stencil component. Abby just saw a presentation about this program and has very positive feedback. Approved
- Double check by-laws about what is allowed to be carried over.

**Fundraisers:**

- Laura to look into Little Caesar's
- Movie night on pause due to sound machine. Suggestions for next one include a pizza preorder, popcorn and candy stand.
- Victoria to follow up with a few outstanding Make It Sow forms. People enjoyed the fundraiser, lower numbers, alternative to cards.
- Chloe connecting with Children's Garden as a support to Make It Sow.

**PIC update:**

- Guest speakers HWTS, PIC applications.

### **\$500 Grant**

- Parent engagement
- Top 3: social events (BBQ, ice cream), SC promotional materials, Guest Speaker
- Open House So Chill support ~\$175
- Mix of School Council banner for tables and supporting Open House.

### **• New Business**

- Forge Flag: talk it up in younger grades, tickets available for purchase.
- Fundraiser
- Principal Placement Survey will be sent, deadline is Friday

### **Open Floor:**

- Events Ward 4 meeting. May 6 event to meet other SC families, superintendents, City councillor
- Open House: selling pizza, hats and buttons at tables.
- Grade 5 Farewell may need help.
- Caitlyn to circulate volunteer requests.
- PRO Grant Internet Safety Event - 3/4/5 to participate in assembly during school day.

PERSON RESPONSIBLE	TASK
Laura Mulder	Finish and circulate minutes
Karley Chaffee	Email staff about what they would like from The Children's Garden
Caitlyn Araya and Victoria Baranow	Follow-up on outstanding Make It Sow payments
Laura Mulder	Gather information about Little Caesar's and update
Caitlyn Araya and Laura Mulder	School Council table at Kindergarten Open House May 22

**NEXT MEETINGS: Wednesday May 21, Monday June 16**

**Meeting adjourned**