

Get Growing Hunt Club (GGHC) 2022

Issues:

- The scope of the Get Growing Hunt Club program in 2022
- The impact of HCCA holding or not holding Commercial General Liability (CGL) insurance

Background:

Scope of GGHC

- Get Growing Hunt Club has delivered seeds and seedlings free of charge to willing gardeners across Hunt Club for the past two years.
 - In 2021-250 seedkits were distributed. Those kits had potential to produce up to \$16,000 value in fresh produce.
 - In 2020-400 seedkits were distributed (same budget both years but in year one there was a substantial donation of seedlings from a local grower).
- Get Growing has requested a status quo budget amount from HCCA and Councillor Brockington (\$300 each) in 2022. The potential value of the food that could be grown with the funds will be at least \$16,000 (CPI increase not included for 2022).

Impact of HCCA holding or not holding CGL

- In both previous years of GGHC HCCA held Commercial General Liability insurance. This insurance provided protection to HCCA and its volunteers and enabled flexibility in how the program could be delivered. For example, GGHC was planning to use centralized distribution from the parking lot in front of Metro and that was only possible if the Association held and showed proof of CGL to the parking lot owners. (COVID restrictions ultimately made this option untenable). Ultimately GGHC was delivered door to door. With CGL the volunteer drivers and the association would have coverage- see the attachment re: risk management for nonprofits.
- If HCCA does not hold CGL in 2022 the shape of GGHC will change to reduce risk exposure of HCCA and volunteers. One option would be to substantially reduce the number of seedkits and directly deliver them to central contacts in OCH, to the gardeners in the MMM community garden and no further.
- Community Associations in Ottawa recently voiced their concern about the two tiered system of CGL coverage from the city. Some Associations have coverage provided by the city by virtue of when the Association was incorporated while others, like HCCA are left to fund from their own budgets. The cost of insurance is an issue:
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/community-associations-insurance-two-tier-increase-1.6264124> According to this article there will be a recommendation to city Council in spring 2022 to address the inequity.

Summary:

The volunteers (and recipients) of HCCA's Get Growing Hunt Club program are thankful to both HCCA and Councillor Brockington for the past two years financial support. The third year has the potential to be as successful as the first two. GGHC builds community and increases the visibility of HCCA as an organization that is interested in and supportive of its residents and of food resiliency. While the cost of insurance is an issue, the cost or damages (to HCCA Board members as individuals or volunteers or both) from a potential action would pale in comparison.

Two suggestions for the Board's consideration. The goodwill generated from the first two years of GGHC could be built upon and in an early announcement about 2022, the previous recipients of GGHC could be asked to either support HCCA by either joining HCCA and/or making a donation to HCCA to offset the costs of GGHC/CGL

HCCA advocate through the Federation of Community Associations and Councillor Brockington to have the city cover all associations' CGL premiums.

Submitted to the HCCA Board January 2022 meeting.
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