

CCGA Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2024 - 6pm on Zoom

Attending: JW Glass, Barb Dennis, Gina Jamison, Mamie Gray, Melissa Petty, Kathy Figel, and Lorraine Kells. Guest Elizabeth Berkeley of Chicago Grows Food**

Motion to accept November minutes with necessary corrections for the website made by JW,
Seconded by Gina.
Meeting called to order 6:10pm

Project/Event Updates are now given at the top of the meeting as per draft agenda sent 10/15

RE: LVMH grant to update website, Mamie is working on identifying potential interns.

JW Screen shared an email CCGA received from Lucy Contreras, the Illinois Community Advocate for GreenLatinos in Chicago. Green Latinos is a national network of Latino/a/e environmental and conservation champions fighting against climate change and environmental degradation that intensifies systemic social, health, and economic injustices in our communities. They are launching a grant to help community-based organizations create parks, gardens, and outdoor community hubs. The initiative targets Chicago, and through this initiative, GreenLatinos aims to advance urban greening planning, advocacy, and implementation. They are looking for local leaders to join our Chicago Community Advisory Board. Everyone expressed interest, and Kathy volunteered to contact Lucy. Gina pointed out that we need to begin with contact with the group get the nuts and bolts to create a narrative and ask for a graphic, then post of FB and our website, and put something in our Winter Newsletter to send out to all CCGA. Kathy will get back to JW.

Gina brought up the topic of a conference in 2024. Mamie stated we may want to review the HDYGG project before making suggestions for an event in 2024. Discussion followed briefly whether a hybrid or in person events is preferable, or even a mini conference in the fall. JW spoke to the preferable in-person networking, energy, and lively connection that we want in an event.

Kathy Figel chimed in with a strong endorsement for a fall event in Oct or Nov. when gardeners would be finished or nearly done with most of the work of their gardens.
Melissa made the motion: CCGA will place a date on the calendar for a potential event in October or November of 2024. Gina seconded.
This means some ad-hoc group should be created before the February meeting and possibly begin discussion.

There is a continued call for the next newsletter, possible Winter Newsletter—please send topics/articles. JW stated we have the intent to get a Newsletter out in Feb.

There were no other topics/projects to discuss

Committee Reports

Resources and Distribution

Barb mentioned a GoFundMe donation to Resources. Lorraine interrupted to point out, unless dedicated to a committee, donations go to CCGA general fund. Barb spoke of Resources and Distributions activity Jan 3 when 20,000 bulbs were made available at the SW corner of Douglas Blvd and Central Park, Love Blooms Here Plaza. The bulbs were available in crates over two days. All the bulbs were taken, but the hope was expressed that this could be done earlier in the season next time.

Open to all, Resources and Distribution will host an event at the Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park Ave., in the community room. Carolina Ara will give tips and a demo on how to grow salad spouts indoors. Eve Venable will demonstrate how to grow gourds to make luffas. From 1-3 pm, must RSVP by Feb. 2. There will also be a give away of house plants. The event is limited to 40 people, and there is an option to tour the Conservatory afterward.

Advocacy & Outreach – No Report

Education – No Report

Communications – JW described some technical work that needs to be done to adjust the map. Pointing out that you won't get a garden name until you click on the map. Mamie and JW will get together. JW is looking for story ideas, and photos from the CEGA awards + copy.

Finance – Angela was not available.

A reminder, the next meeting is February 20 ma
7:03 Motion to Adjourn made by JW; seconded by Kathy

***Elizabeth attended the meeting although on mute and not using video. She was active in the chat, stating she would be getting back to CCGA.