

## **CCGA Membership Meeting, Monday August 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm at the Chicago Center for Green Technology**

13 people attended the CCGA coordinating meeting.

### In attendance:

Lindsey Telford, Chicago Plant Rescue

Bea Jasper, Get Gardening in Englewood

Pat Hart/Jackson, Sherwood Peace Garden & Paradise Garden

Lorraine Kells – (Lakeview);

Robert Hart, Paradise Garden and VA Garden

Ellen Newcomer, CCGA Resources Comm.

Erik Hernandez, CCGA& NeighborSpace

LaVerne Morris, Grandma's Garden, CCGA Resources Comm.

Mamie Gray, North Lawndale Greening Committee

Julie Samuels, CCGA Membership Comm.

JW Glass, Greenhouse Garden, CCGA Communications Comm.

Tonia "Toni" Andreina - Geography and Youth Development at Columbia College

Cordia Pugh, Hermitage Garden, (Englewood);

### Handouts:

- meeting agenda;
- prototype **Membership Application** provided by Julie Samules.

Meeting started around 6:30pm with a call for **introductions** by Julie Samuels, who facilitated the meeting.

Julie S. then reviewed **the agenda** and solicited any agenda changes, there were 3 comments/suggestions to add to the agenda:

- Ellen N. noted that 2 other committees should be included in the committee reports part of the meeting: Development & Finance;
- Bea Jasper wanted to know why the annual conference is slated under Membership;
- LaVerne M. wanted to discuss behavior in the coordinating group.

Before the official start of the meeting **Erik Hernandez** reported on the American Community Gardening Assn annual meeting he attended in Cleveland OH in August. Erik reported that there were 3 days of workshops and parties and his take away was that we are in good shape in Chicago as far as our city-wide organizing efforts, access to water and ownership of property for community gardens. Erik said one workshop on asset mapping stood out whereby support is drawn from nearby entities to support a garden and how continuous communication to a wide variety of people help focus commitment on the garden space.

#### **Review of 6-18-2016 Coordinating Meeting minutes**

- there were no comments on the previous coordinating meeting minutes;
- JW Glass reminded everyone that there was a special page on the CCGA website where the coordinating meeting minutes could always be found:  
[http://chicagocommunitygardens.org/ccga\\_coordinating\\_mtgs\\_2016/](http://chicagocommunitygardens.org/ccga_coordinating_mtgs_2016/)

Then, we moved to the **main meeting agenda** that was distributed to all those present.

## Working Group Updates

### A. Membership Committee Report

- Julie started by recognizing that the venue and date for the annual conference need to be determined soon and opened this topic up for discussion;
- Ellen N. said that last year she and LaVerne M. had scouted-out venues and suggested Humboldt or Douglas Park fieldhouses may be suitable venues for the conference;
- Ellen N. suggested an ad-hoc committee be formed to help plan the conference and specifically to help find and secure a venue;
- a general discussion ensued about a date for the conference and 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in March 2017 was the general consensus for the target date: **Saturday March 4<sup>th</sup>**;
- there was some general discussion about which committee should take the lead in annual meeting planning: JW Glass suggested the membership committee was the natural forum for this as all coordinating group attendees, unless specifically in Resources/Education/Communications are automatically assigned to the membership group and it is the largest of the 4 CCGA committees, Lorraine K. and others suggested an ad-hoc group be formed to handle annual meeting planning;
- the general consensus was that we would form an ad-hoc committee to help plan the conference and that each committee would contribute one person to the ad-hoc group and that anyone else could join this ad-hoc group if they had an interest;
- Ellen N. said we should reconstitute the Finance committee which Gina J. and Angela T. were originally members of this group and maybe include one representative from each of the other or anyone else with an interest in those matters;
- someone else suggested we combine the development and finance committees, JW Glass observed that there is really no one involved in development and that the finance group was formed several years ago and seemed dormant with not much to do;
- the general consensus was to re-form the finance group and combine development for now and with the original members and new members solicit interest from anyone wanting to join this group and that has interests in those matters and that one of their specific tasks would be to review and or re-write the fiscal agent agreement;
- a brief discussion was held about the next coordinating meeting and the date was determined to be **Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup> at Noon**;

## TO-DO

- a.) send note to all to solicit interest from individuals wanting to join the annual meeting ad-hoc planning group and set-up email list for this group – target date for annual conference is **Saturday March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017**, a special email address: [ccga2017event@chicagocommunitygardens.org](mailto:ccga2017event@chicagocommunitygardens.org) – was created to use for this ad-hoc group;
- b.) send note to all to solicit interest from anyone wanting to join a combined finance/development committee;

## B. Resources Committee Report

- Pat H. reported on the perennial distribution that occurred on August 12<sup>th</sup> which was one of the largest with plants going to 84 different gardens from Elite Growers and Pat noted a special donation from Rush Hospital which contributed several hundred plants but which the Resources team had to dig-up and transport, a special thanks goes out to **May Toy** for her assistance;
- Pat also reported on the next perennial distribution which is scheduled for Friday September 30<sup>th</sup> with the venue not yet determined;
- Ellen N. and others discussed the plant distributions which gives us at CCGA a chance to interact with gardeners from all over the city and they get a chance to meet each other as well and that there is good synergy and energy derived from the distributions;

## C. Education Committee Report

- Ellen N. reported that education would like to put on a fall workshop of some kind and that she has been in touch with Val K. from U of I extension;
- one possible workshop suggested was a panel discussion about what it takes to lead a community garden, the panel would cover issues that come up in running a community garden and the overall fact that is easy to start a garden but hard to keep in going over the years, the average garden leader is only involved in a garden for about 7 years;
- Lorraine K. said maybe we could have a workshop that focuses on faltering gardens and how to resurrect them, which may be an opportunity to put on an asset mapping workshop to help focus local resources at faltering gardens;
- JW also mentioned that Val K. had identified someone on her staff (Zach Bel) that might be willing to put on a season extension workshop and show how to build a mini-tunnel type system;

TO-DO:

- a.) continue to recruit volunteers to this committee;
- b.) try to sponsor a possible fall workshop;

**D. Communication Committee Report**

- JW Glass reported on traffic statistics on the CCGA web site both from Google Analytics and from the tools available from the hosting vendor;
- JW Glass showed everyone the CCGA website and pointed out the page where all the CCGA coordinating meeting minutes could always be found:  
[http://chicagocommunitygardens.org/ccga\\_coordinating\\_mtgs\\_2016/](http://chicagocommunitygardens.org/ccga_coordinating_mtgs_2016/)
- JW Glass also reported on the use and deployment of the new mailing lists and that we have one for each committee: so to send an email to the entire Resources group you only have to send one email to [resources@chicagocommunitygardens.org](mailto:resources@chicagocommunitygardens.org);
- also JW noted that we can create these mailing lists for any special purpose or ad-hoc group as we need them;
- JW then reported about the CCGA Facebook page and its status since the last meeting, a general discussion ensued about the Facebook page, JW discussed what had been done to the existing posts (trying to delete some of the Rodale re-posts), how we have tried to reach out to the person who makes the most offending posts (Jen), how we will be trying to make more Facebook posts with links to stories on the CCGA site and about how we need to empower others to post on Facebook;

TO-DO

- a.) let everyone know that to email any of the 4 CCGA committee's use the following email addresses:

[resources@chicagocommunitygardens.org](mailto:resources@chicagocommunitygardens.org)

[education@chicagocommunitygardens.org](mailto:education@chicagocommunitygardens.org)

[membership@chicagocommunitygardens.org](mailto:membership@chicagocommunitygardens.org)

[communications@chicagocommunitygardens.org](mailto:communications@chicagocommunitygardens.org)

The ***next CCGA coordinating meeting*** is planned for Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup> at Noon at the Center for Green Technology, 445 N. Sacramento Blvd.

**Added To Agenda Item:**

At the end of the meeting LaVerne M. mentioned that we should all be most respectful in our public correspondence and all be nice to one another, which was resoundingly agreed to by all present.

The CCGA coordinating meeting adjourned at around 8:00pm.

Notes submitted by JW Glass.