CCGA Education Committee Meeting Report

January 10, 2017, 4 p.m. at Logan Square Library, Chicago, IL
Present: Lorraine Kells, Angela O’Rourke, Bea Jasper, Cordia Pugh, Erik Hernandez, Val Kehoe, Breanne Heath

Breanne proposed that a discussion on the charter or mission of the Education committee be discussed, and that the discussion surrounding the conference be expanded to include whether we want to allow admission/meals for presenters which was approved by motion to provide lunch, waive conference fee, and allow workshop attendance. The new wording is as follows and is now posted on the CCGA website.

Education Committee Purpose
Current Education Committee description on CCGA website was discussed and edited. Current language is below; will be presented to Communications Committee for publication on the website.

Committee Purpose
This committee works to develop educational events and plan workshops sponsored by or coordinated through CCGA. Our aim is to provide information utilizing best practices to assist community gardeners in the Chicagoland area.

Current Projects
In addition to developing CCGA events and workshops, the Education Committee also works to identify existing educational and training opportunities to share with CCGA gardeners. The committee calls for ideas for workshops in community spaces and those that could be held in gardens. We welcome volunteers to join the group.

How to Contact Us
For more information on this CCGA committee, please contact us at education@chicagocommunitygardens.org.

Discussion of workshop proposals
A few proposals were readily accepted. Many require some level of discussion with the presenter to make sure community gardeners will benefit from the presentation, the presenter has the theme “Gardeners Grow Communities” in mind, and that the presentations are not sales pitches or pushing political candidates/platforms. Breanne and Val will contact presenters to discuss possible overlap with other presentations, and to get a stronger sense of the format of presentation and content.

1. Community Gardens as Multi-Issue Organizing Hubs - Breanne will contact Viviana
2. Benefits and Purposes of Youth Gardens from a Kid's Point of View – Yes. Accepted as proposed
3. Integrated Pest Management - Val will contact Zach
4. DIY Season Extension for Community Gardens - Val will contact Zach
5. Get Your Green ON! Tips for Growing Natural and Vibrant Gardens - Breanne will contact Ryan
6. Preserve Your Harvest Through Fermentation (Breanne agreed to co-present??) - Yes
7. Rain Garden and Rain Water Harvesting - Breanne will contact Julia
8. Garden Lessons for Students - No
9. How to Plan Your Raised Vegetable Bed - Val will contact Mattie
10. Basic Vegetable Gardening - Val will contact Nancy

Questions for Finance and Planning Committees:
1. Has the handout budget been increased? Breanne requested increase from $300 to $600.
2. Will admission to the conference and meals be provided to the presenters?

The Education Committee prefers to have co-Chairs, with a term of one year. Co-chairs can decide to continue on or step down after the term is over. Lorraine Kells and Breanne Heath were voted as co-chairs.