

## Committee Meeting Minutes Monday, May 22, 2017

Welcome and Introductions 6:48 pm

Meeting at Feed, 2803 W. Chicago Ave. In attendance: Val Kehoe, Theresa Buffo, Angela O'Rourke, and Lorraine Kells

Motion to accept Minutes for April 5, 2017 made by Angela, seconded by Val and approved.

Lorraine stated that two workshops are in the planning; planning will continue between presenters and chairs with email updates and discussion amongst committee members. The 1<sup>st</sup> workshop on herbs will be presented by Sarah Mallin, date to be finalized; the second workshop will be July 8, presented by Allan Lawrance, Living Invertebrate Specialist at the Nature Museum. The workshop will be on Beneficial Insects for the Garden. Lorraine pointed out that Allan is not a gardener but will present information pertinent to gardeners and illuminating facts about these insects. In addition, there will be some insects to show such as praying mantis and lacewings.

It was suggested that folks should bring their own 8 oz. mason jars of vinegar to make flavored vinegar at the workshop. Spiced oils could be made or demonstrated. Tea sampled and drying of herbs should be mentioned.

The June 3 retreat was discussed under new business and the three questions on the agenda were posed. Each member answered as follows:

Val

What is one thing you feel is currently working well with CCGA? That everyone has a say

What is one thing you feel is not working/should be better? Communication

What is one thing you would like to develop as a new idea for CCGA? A new ad hoc group for school gardens

Angela

What is one thing you feel is currently working well with CCGA?

What is one thing you feel is not working/should be better? Clarification of who gets to garden at the CGT greenhouse; not taking advantage of it with more tours

What is one thing you would like to develop as a new idea for CCGA? Childcare at the conference, possibly for a fee.

Theresa

What is one thing you feel is currently working well with CCGA? Facebook posts

What is one thing you feel is not working/should be better? Distributions. The process feels chaotic, needs consistency of start time; there is no follow-through—what happens to all the plants that go out.

What is one thing you would like to develop as a new idea for CCGA? More season follow-through on distributions

A lengthy discussion followed on School Gardens, problems of parents not being supported by teachers or principals in many gardens. Teachers are burnt-out, and knowledge is not shared from year to year. Classroom activity in science, math or art does not link with the school garden to bring in into school. So much information to plow though without easy access and organization such as a large notebook with record kept by school gardens to document problems and solutions.

Val mentioned many resources that schools have access to such as

- School Garden Workshop at MSI,
- Seeds of Ministry
- Illinois Ag in the Classroom.
- Kitchen garden grant. Kitchen Community supports gardens and provides money for gardens.
- Wellness coach There is supposed to be a at each school; it would fall to them to oversee keeping staff and parents informed on a continuing basis. She said that twice a year in northern and southern Cook county there are
- School Garden workshops held by Ill ext. twice a year in northern and southern Cook county there
- Grow Well program Theresa countered that it is not supported and there is too much red tape. LSC “walks it”

The recommendation was that Theresa would initiate an ad hoc group of people to work on the challenges and solutions. Education agreed to meet with them and perhaps have a few pilot programs (schools for models) and work on a better process with internal school and administration support to build bridging especially in the classroom. Have an all school planting day and harvesting day. CCGA may develop a Youth and School Garden Committee from the group that Theresa and Val are working on.

Angela reported that she is moving to Switzerland July 13<sup>th</sup> as her baby is due in August. We agreed to meet July 8<sup>th</sup> after the workshop for a baby shower.

Reminder: Co-ordinating Meeting Tues. May 23, 6:30 pm at CGT

Meeting adjourned 8:24 by motion from Val and seconded by Angela