

**CCGA Monthly Coordinating Meeting (Virtual)**  
**Tuesday, November 17, 2020, 6:00 - 7:30 PM**  
**On Zoom**

*Present: Julie Samuels, Mamie Gray, Lorraine Kells, Angela Taylor, Amy Olson, Marsha Wyatt, Kimberly George, JW Glass, and Gina Jamison. Aileen Gray joined us from the UIC Booth School of Business. She is working on a project about community gardening with a focus on sustainability.*

**1. Welcome & Call to Order**

- Volunteers for Time-Keeper & Note-Taker: Gina was the time keeper and notes were compiled by Amy Olson
- Agenda review
- Meeting minutes - Minutes from Sept and Oct meetings to come.

**Announcements:**

Cultivate Wellbeing exhibit at Field Museum will run until December of 2021.

Cordia's and Angela's gardens are featured!

<https://www.fieldmuseum.org/exhibitions/plant-medicine>.

**2. Discussion About 2021 Conference**

**When?**

- February/March - try to keep same time frame as past conferences. This is a kick-off to gardening season and has worked well in the past.
- Lorraine - need more time for planning and preparation
- Not dependent on venue
- Could it be multiple days?

**Who will attend?**

- Survey our email list and past conference-goers to see if they can attend virtually.  
What are requirements?
- All agreed a survey is a good idea - we can include in next newsletter.
- We can go far beyond our immediate subscribers - ACGA, can attract much larger following.
- Having guests from all over the country is a great idea but we have to keep in mind that we are the CCGA and we focus on Chicago.

- Could be interesting to partner with gardeners from other areas of the country for discussions (ie Chicago and Spokane - different plants, what is similar?)

### **Attendee Fee**

We hope to keep it the same (\$25)

### **Presenters**

- Of the presenters that were slated for 2020, do they have the capacity to participate virtually?
- Need to have presenters who are familiar with video - could we provide support & train them?
- The 2020 presenters planned to use smart tech and are probably doing webinars this year - going virtual will not be that difficult.
- The presenters may know other people (speaker series - Kasey?)
- Will not be hard to find speakers.
- We will need to allocate time to support those who are not ready to go with a virtual presentation.
- Presenter ideas from Marsha: Clarks Nursery (UIC extension), Christy Webber, Garfield Park and CBG. Garden in N. Georgia - Gibbs Garden.
- Do we limit the number of presenters? How will we compensate presenters?
- Is there a limit to the number of presenters? 4 maximum for panel?

### **Technical**

- We need people who can support us in creating a professional virtual conference
- Angela - consider a technical consultant. JW, Angela, Lorraine have contacts.
- Marsha - UIC business school professional association. Could help with website and maybe virtual platform
- We could create an RFP for people/companies who manage virtual conferences.
- Budget - can allocate funds to cover fee
- JW - Zoom Pro account - he thinks we can do it ourselves

### **Theme**

- Sustainability
- 2020 Theme of Wellness expanded - we can utilize existing theme and logo and adapt it

### **Conference Kits**

We could assemble kits for attendees to pick up prior to conference (or we distribute somehow - drop off or mail/ship?)

- Bamboo Utensils - we have
- Books
- Worms?? - reach out to person who was going to bring worms?
- Sponsors??

### **Format**

Focus on conference format in next meeting

- Live presentations - location dependent on available tech
- Pre-recorded presentations
- Live breakout rooms with presenter Q & A
- Could have more workshops - run concurrent?
- Extend time - more days?
- Live virtual event and then available on-demand?
- Gap fillers - Welcome, housekeeping
- Community groups/music/yoga: My Block, My Hood, My City - Cordia and Gina - may know people who can participate
- Keynote speaker?

## **3. Committee Reports**

### **Resources** (Lorraine)

- May Toy can use green house at NS. Greenhouses are going strong.
- Ellen is new chair.
- We will have plants for spring distribution.
- Mamie - was there a donation of bulbs? She will follow up with Ellen
- Possible holiday event
- Idea about distributing Beneficial insects! How to distribute?

### **Finance** (Angela)

- Invoice has been sent to NeighborSpace to cover \$200 of Covid-19 garden signage.
- Amy thanked Mimi Noyes via GoFund Me (donor of \$200 earmarked for Covid signs)
- NS will cut a check for Kasey for 50% of donations for herb workshop

### **Membership** (Julie)

- Need to bring people together to talk membership.
- Aileen may join - Thank you Aileen! She lives in loop.
- Julie has a fig. Gina - where did you get your fig tree? Local garden club (Julie)

### **Education** (Lorraine and Gina)

- Herb Workshop was a great success. Gina did a fabulous job introducing Kasey. Whole process was smooth with communications.

### **Communications** (Amy & JW)

#### We brainstormed newsletter ideas

- Resources committee holiday sale
- Cooking - recipes, fermenting, canning,
- Season extension, long winters night, putting our gardens to sleep
- Updated gardening calendar
- Report on Open House
- Field Museum exhibit
- Update on Pilot Project,
- Water Survey Results
- Grants - Urban Ag and Gardening (Kim)

#### Website - call for support

- Update of web content - need help from more people.
- JW - review and update the list of all community gardens in Chicago

### **4. Next Meeting**

Tuesday, December 15 at 6pm on Zoom