

# CCGA Coordinating Meeting Notes

February 16, 2021 – 6:00pm - 8:00pm

**Location: CCGA Zoom Room (Virtual Meeting)**

Present on the call were: Amy Olson, Lorraine Kells, Angela Taylor, May Toy, Kimberely George, Marsha Wyatt, Ben Avis, Gina Jamison, Maimie Gray, JW Glass

We reviewed the agenda, which can be downloaded here:

<https://chicagocommunitygardens.org/ccga-coordinating-meetings-2021/>

## Education Comm Report

Lorraine Kells reported on the progress of the **Legacy Gardeners Project** which is proceeding. A producer and video person/editor are lined up and will receive an honorarium type fee from Education Committee funds to get started. Lorraine read a statement and presented motion to proceed which all affirmed. The first two legacy gardeners are: **Doretha Penn & Irma Purnell**.

Next the new proposed **Managed Native Garden Registry Ordinance** was discussed. May Toy outlined the particular problems with the ordinance as written especially for community gardens but many other growing scenarios as well. May then led the discussion of the main flawed parts:

- issues with being owner occupied and the owner knowing and being able to identify plants in the garden and then what about native gardens that don't have owners;
- issues with only native plants making a site eligible for the registry, which doesn't account for seasonal pollination scenarios, special flowers and growing food in a potential permaculture type model;
- issues with height and distance rules of plants, taking into no account pathways, special butterfly gardens,

May Toy presented the traps of the ordinance being in essence that this creates a false sense that it is positive for the environment when it is not. May stressed that there was no input from community gardeners and that CCGA should take the lead in rejecting the existing language.

In summary May indicated CCGA should take the following action: 1.) react and press for input into the policy directly- and 2.) stop the false narrative already being disseminated as one voice.

***The entire group was behind sending letters to all 50 aldermen stating our position and offering to assist in crafting a more acceptable policy.***

May presented two documents:

Section 3, Chapter 10-32, Section 10-32-055 - Managed Native Garden Registry  
Block Club Chicago story from 2020 about a gardener fined by the city.

## Communications Comm Report

Amy Olson reported on the status of the registration process and newsletter.

The next newsletter is planned to be sent later this week announcing that registration is open for the conference. Several more story items were discussed and added to the list that Amy and Lorraine and others have been working on. Communications will try to get a preview email out by Thursday/Friday of this week.

As far as the registration process, work still needs to be done on the various pieces (Google form, GoFundMe site, etc..) and Amy Olosn is working on that. Also payers from last year (2020) need to be contacted and JW Glass is assembling a list to contact those individuals.

## Discussion of Exhibitor & Sponsor Solicitation

JW Glass opened a general discussion about soliciting exhibitors. We all reviewed the latest sponsorship documents and edited and proofread both the .pdf flyer and solicitation letter. We discussed how the exhibit hall can remain open for the duration of the conference and the need to review our lists and follow-up on who is doing the correspondence with potential exhibitors.

## Discussion - About the Structure of the Day - Main Stage Events

JW Glass opened the discussion about the use of the Hoppin virtual event platform public spaces and how we will make good use of the time. Amy Olson explained how the '**Main Stage**' works in Hoppin. A general discussion ensued about what kind of content we could provide. Ideas presented were: keynote speaker, introduction to CCGA, any technical advice about the day we want to provide, songs and games and fun things as well. This is all still to be determined and all were encouraged to be thinking about this.

## Resources Committee Report

As we were running short of time we only had a short report from May Toy representing the Resources team. May briefed the group on the growing and propagating operations at both the CCGT and Austin High School greenhouse and a brief explanation of the spring ornamentals (violets, pansies, coles, etc..) and vegetable (just starting) seedling status and planned production out of both greenhouses. May also reported a donation from seeds from PanAmerican Seed.

## Adjournment & Ad-Hoc Meeting February 25th

Just before adjournment it was decided that we would have an ad-hoc meeting on **Thursday February 25th at 6pm** to finish planning and discussing the following items:

- continued planning for public **Main Stage** events;
- follow-up on exhibitor and sponsor solicitations;
- Hoppin training for presentation moderators;

The next standing CCGA Coordinating meeting is Tuesday March 16, 2021 at 6pm

*Meeting notes compiled by JW Glass*