

CCGA Coordinating Meeting Notes
September 21, 2021 – 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Location: El Paseo Community Garden, 944 W 21st St, Chicago, IL 60608.

Present Barb Dennis, Marsha Wyatt, Gina Jamison, JW Glass, and Lorraine Kells with special guest Paula Acevedo, Co-Steward of El Paseo. Visitors, Co-Steward Antonia & son Felix, Ali, and Carlos also from El Paseo.

JW Glass called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda, which can be downloaded [here]

No previous meeting minutes were reviewed. Lorraine Kells volunteered as note taker. Gina volunteered as time keeper.

Project/Event Updates

Garden List update discussion led by JW described and overview of a web-based resource on our own website which would be searchable by locations and accessible in some way to public searches. After October 1st JW said he will be free and find time to lead a group to create this list which would include the garden steward name and contact information. He stressed the importance of finding gardeners, not students or temporary help. Maintenance of the list needs discussion. CCGA will need at least 5 people with some degree of web-based skills to facilitate creating the list of gardens, locations, steward contact info. work dates scheduled for the year, whether volunteers are welcome. Lorraine stated that while the list is “self-managed” it should have some oversight in the first months of active garden season to see if it serves its intended purpose and to make fixes to the initial list function. There has to be some feedback information to determine if volunteer groups actually have the volunteers they propose to send and some report of success with using the list as a match for service requests.

Native Garden Registry

Lorraine shared copies of May’s one page explainer and clarified that the Ordinance did indeed pass unanimously in full city council Tuesday, Sept 14. Additional copies were requested. Lorraine stated the document would be in the newsletter.

Newsletter

Email from Amy stated that she was working on the design and will send a draft asap this eve.

Conference Discussion

It was roundly agreed that we will have an in-person conference. Some hybrid form is desirable, if not during the conference, later or next day if possible. A desire to hire videographers to tape the workshops was stated. A summary of income and expenses for the 2021 conference was sent to the Communications team and read to all present. Not added are the totals for our sponsorships as well. And Amy wrote: don’t forget that I still have the bamboo cutlery in my studio - 200 sets!

Committee Reports

Resources – Barb Dennis reported that Resources needs volunteers for the October 1st distribution. She also reported that there will be a garlic seedling distribution at the end of October. Those present expressed a desire to have Mamie send out notices of small plant or material donations to all chairs rather than just posting to FB. Many are not on FB or do not follow CCGA. What???

Advocacy and Outreach – Julie was not present. JW reported that all web-based and email information is correct for the committee; however. Lorraine and Marsha discussed the need for a new description of what the committee mission is. Marsha agreed to work with Julie after this weekend's Harvest Festival. Paula mentioned a resource that might be useful/helpful for community work, i.e., murals

<https://connecting4communities.org/>

Education – Lorraine reported that we could consider in-person workshops again and would work with Marsha and her committee on possible topics such as flower weaving. The committee will continue to alongside Communications to respond to requests for various information, volunteers, etc. until the website is improved to offer more, updated resources and the garden list becomes active. Paula suggested an FAQ on the website. Paula said how much she enjoyed the workshops of garden stewards sharing experiences and hoped to see this happen again.

Communication – Lorraine and JW read from Amy's email "We need more members: especially writers, social media gurus, designers, photographers, videographers. A while back, Marsha mentioned having a contact at UIC (I think). We need more help!

GoFundMe Me Charity converting to GoFundMe Me.

We will need to shut down our GoFundMe Me Charity account asap - it's closing down completely on Dec. 31. We can still use the GoFundMe Me account, but will need to cash out of GFM Charity if needed. (See attached clip from a NeighborSpace newsletter)

Marsha replied that she would reach out to any contacts that would be available consistently, not just for short term projects.

Finance – No committee person was present.

Meeting was adjourned by motion from Marsha; seconded by Gina at 7:41pm