

CCGA Coordinating Meeting on September 27, 2022 • Notes

September 27, 2022 from 5 to 6:30 pm

Location: CCGA Zoom Room (Virtual Meeting)

Present: Mamie Gray, Barb Dennis, JW Glass, Lorraine Kells, Gina Jamison, Angela Taylor, May Toy, Julie Samuels, Kimberly George, Marsha Wyatt, and Melissa Petty

Welcome and Call to Order

May requested an addition to the agenda: Cook County Forest Preserve Referendum which was added to the Project/Event Updates

Agenda: [HERE](#)

Motion to accept agenda made by JW, seconded by Mamie. Meeting began at 5:09

Committee Reports

Advocacy & Outreach

May gave an update of the workshop “Visioning the Future of our Gardens”, Sept. 17. She stated that her quantitative comparison of support given to community gardens in 4 cities with Chicago faring poorly in support. May’s research will be on the website soon. Molly Doane of UIC and David King, Director, WeWill Outreach also gave presentations which will be on the website.

- CCGA needs to advocate for more community gardens
- CCGA terms of funding for soil, lumber, compost and wood chips as well as dedicated staff must call for a baseline of support in Chicago for community gardens
- Everyone is highly encouraged to complete the WeWill Survey

Resources & Distributions

Barb reported that Resources had done well with its recent “Do It Yourself” distributions, Resources will hold a garlic bulb distribution in October.

- Resources needs volunteers to help with the Sept 30th distribution at 8am.

Education: Lorraine stated again the importance of May’s research and clarified that the WeWill Survey has been simplified with a 5-star rating response, and is much easier to do.

- Complete the survey at <https://wewillchicago.com/surveys>

Communications

JW briefly reviewed the website content management and called for a Newsletter to be created and sent before the Oct 18 meeting. All agreed the website needs to be redone.

Kim gave a special report on the \$500,000 grant awarded to 4 organizations with 3 hubs in Lawndale for a garden to table pipeline, allowing gardens to produce as much food as possible creating a resilient food system. Funding will be used to hire coordinators. The importance of the grant is to make it clear that communities have a solution.

Finance

Angela gave a brief report of the 10th Anniversary Event. She stated CCGA raised \$6399.16 with expenses totaling \$3709.09 leaving \$2689.77 in our treasury, Still pending is a \$500 donation; Marsha mentioned that her \$300 donation is also outstanding.

Angela stated that we need development for continued funding. Lorraine mentioned that some of CCGA's treasury could be used to fund the Legacy Gardener Project

Projects/Event Updates

CEGA Contest for 2022

Kim mentioned that Slumbusters won an award; Marsha stated Maxwell Street CG also won the award

News about MWRD Activity

Julie stated that we should get MWRD to pay for testing, and we need to get more community gardeners to make their own compost. May made it clear we need to establish from our standpoint in CCGA that we don't support use of biosolids. May has found the least expensive testing of soil for "forever Chemicals" to be \$600. This is for just one sample.

- Rewrite the Compost Ordinance

Obama Foundation Outreach

Gina reported on an outreach to Education from the Obama foundation which proposes to design and build a campus with teaching gardens kitchens and community engagement for long term maintenance which will be called "Hope to Action". She will continue to work with people in the Obama Foundation.

Cook County Forest Preserve

May encourage everyone to support the referendum to increase a minor amount of money in the form of a tax to support the broad programming in the forest preserve, for acquisition, clean up, restoration and conservation. They do a lot to safeguard natural habitat.

- Vote YES for this on ballot in November.

Motion to Adjourn made by Marsha

Seconded by May

Meeting Adjourned **6:30pm**