

CCGA Coordinating Meeting Minutes for October 18, 2022, 6-7pm Location: CCGA Zoom Room (Virtual Meeting)

Present: Barb Dennis, JW Glass, Lorraine Kells, Gina Jamison, Angela Taylor,

Welcome and Call to Order

Barb made a request to be up first in committee reports; all agreed. Motion to accept agenda made by JW, seconded by Gina. The meeting commenced at 7:15pm

Committee Reports

Resources & Distributions

Barb reported that Resources had done well with its 9/30 "Do It Yourself" perennial distribution. Over 70 gardens participated after volunteers unloaded an abundance of plant material from 3 flatbed trucks which took about an hour and 15 minutes. This new method grouping like and plants works well for everyone; gardeners choose for themselves what they want and can use. The Oct 15 seed garlic, grape hyacinth and perennials as well as houseplant distribution went well.

- Resources will hold a Holiday Plant Sale in December; a tentative date of 12/3 has been set. It will be one of their Family and Friends events at the Hatchery.

The greenhouse at Sacramento Blvd is cleared out, but the Austin greenhouse is still growing and housing plant material

Advocacy and Outreach

No one was present from this committee.

Education

Gina stated that she has been in contact with people from the Obama foundation and is awaiting their response to set up a meeting with herself & Lorraine. Lorraine stated that Education will partner with Advocacy and Outreach for a follow-up and next steps gathering for community gardeners regarding WeWill survey responses and the next phase of planning and implementation. There will also be another in person or zoom gathering with a host, someone likely from soil science to help explain the PFAS, forever chemicals, and to answer questions and advise people affected by the contaminated MWRD biosolids in their gardens

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

Communications

JW discussed the Newsletter with a punch list of 8 items to be covered as follows

1. CEGA Awards

JW will follow up:

- Summary of event - Kim and Marsha contributing
- Pics - Kim (Slumbusters) and Marsha (Maxwell Street Community Garden)

2. Monarch tagging project at Lakeview Community Garden

Tribune article:

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/breaking/ct-monarch-migration-tagging-community-garden-2020920-fodvgzrzjnezxbfag5ajpautpq-story.html>

- Summary - Amy will write
- Links for more info on monarch/pollinator programs from conference

3. Resources year in review

- Lorraine has drafted
- Pics of distributions available

4. WeWill Chicago

Amy & Lorraine:

- Workshop report
- Share your thoughts - Complete survey by Nov 1
- Next steps

5. OpenHouse Chicago visits North Lawndale community gardens

Mamie:

- Summary of event & how OpenHouse includes gardens
- Whirlygigs project: summary and photos
- Photos of African Heritage garden - Mamie emailed, we have them

6. 500k Grant to North Lawndale for Garden to Table pipeline

Lorraine – reached out to Kim

- 15 gardens, food hubs, coordinators
- Pics

7. PFAS in MWRD biosolids

Amy & Lorraine to write:

- How can CCGA support community gardeners and growers?
- Invitation to round table (zoom?) for those who have used this product
- Ask Andrew, May, Julie about leading discussion

8. Fall Garden Cleanup:

Amy will summarize info from Illinois Master Gardeners post:

<https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/good-growing/2021-10-22-fall-garden-clean-pollinators-and-other-wildlife-mind>

Finance

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.

Project/Event Updates

Lorraine initiated a discussion re: will we have an in-person conference in March? The discussion led to wanting a note put in the Newsletter and a follow-up email to the working groups about the conference format and venue.

An important referendum is on the ballot for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County-Clean Air, Clean Water, and Wildlife Habitat Protection; a one year limiting rate increase of a mere .025%. CCGA has earlier passed a motion to support the broad programming in the forest preserve, for acquisition, cleanup, restoration and conservation. They do a lot to safeguard natural habitat.

- Vote YES for this on ballot in early voting, by mail, in person in November.

Gina added an announcement of an event at Kuumba tre ahm to celebrate the 75 year history of this garden. There will be ground breaking for the installation of a memorial bench and a boulder and recognizing and celebrating the family that steward this space. Mark your calendars for the Memorial and Installation, Friday, April 28, 2023 at the Dome, 100 N. Central Park Ave, Chicago, IL 60624

Motion to Adjourn made by Barb, Seconded by JW. Meeting adjourned 6:47pm