

CCGA Monthly Meeting on January 17, 2023 • Notes

January 17, 2023 from 6 to 8 pm

Location: CCGA Zoom Room (Virtual Meeting)

Present:

Lorraine Kells, Angela Taylor, Gina Jamison, Marsha Wyatt, Barb Dennis, JW Glass, Amy Olson, Kim George, Olivia Bird, and Nicole from G2T Pipeline

Welcome & Call to Order

- The meeting started at about 6:15pm
- Welcome!
 - Olivia Bird – a gardener in the Humboldt Park neighborhood.
 - Nicole from Garden to Table Pipeline in Lawndale (G2T Pipeline)
 - Nicole is creating a daycare for children with autism and Down's Syndrome, Limes Smiles for Miles. She's seeking resources to build out a space on the west side. Her project is in the development stage.
 - Garfield Park at Lake/Kedzie – possible location?
 - UIC garden for autistic kids, near Harrison. Could partner with UIC for programming in gardens with special needs kids.
 - Seeking board members (wisdom, wealth and work)

Committee Reports

Resources & Distributions

- Upcoming houseplant sale and workshop on February 11 at The Hatchery.
- May "spring" distribution is in the works – date TBD.

Education & Outreach (together)

- MWRD PFAS event:
 - Lorraine and May are discussing the format.
 - Confirmed panelists: 3 people from MWRD, Andrew Margenot
 - Invitation extended: Michael Hawthorne (who wrote Tribune articles), William Ditell (sp?) has a process to extract PFAS from water, Illinois EPA?
 - 3M has committed to ceasing the production of PFAS.
- WeWill:
 - CCGA will continue working with David King. Awaiting next steps.

Communications

- Newsletter: want to do this quarterly. Need more help! Find guest writers. Expand garden and community highlights!
- Olivia said she may want to help, yay!

Project Updates

2023 Event Series instead of 2023 Conference

- Angela gave an overview of the idea for the event series.
- We propose to have a series of 4 community events across the city - each one in a different area N,S,W and E in April, May, Sept and Oct. Each one will include a speaker/workshop/panel, food, self-guided garden tours, etc. to bring gardeners together to learn about and experience community gardening in that area. CCGA would engage garden groups and orgs in each area to collaborate.
- We had a general discussion about the idea:
 - CCGA would go to stakeholders and ask whether they could host events in their community gardens and communities.
 - CCGA would hold the events at 4 different sites around the city.
 - The themes of each event would be seasonal
 - The education committee could work to bring speakers to each event
 - Tomato guy, Dan Gibbs, etc.
 - Active and interactive event:
 - Music and food!
 - A walking tour
 - Hands on activity
 - Announcement soon:
 - Do you want to host or co-host an event?
 - Partner with other gardens
 - What is your idea?
 - Map assets – what will CCGA provide?

Motion

We proposed a motion to replace the annual conference in 2023 with an event series. It was accepted unanimously.

"CCGA proposes to re-envision our approach to the annual conference and adopt a series of events for community gardeners in the north, west, east and south areas of Chicago. These events will occur in April May, September, and October and will feature workshops, speakers, networking and other resources to support community gardeners across the city."

Ad hoc committee to plan the event series:

- Angela, Marsha, Lorraine, Gina and Amy will meet on January 31 at 6pm on Zoom.

The meeting adjourned around 8pm.

Notes compiled by Amy

