

CCGA March 2023 Coordinating Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: March 21, 2023 - Virtual Meeting, CCGA Zoom Room

In Attendance: Barb Dennis, Mamie Gray, JW Glass, Lorraine Kells, Angela Taylor, Gina Jamison

Welcome and Call to Order

JWG presented the agenda and last meeting minute notes for review. Motions were made to accept the agenda and previous meeting notes. The meeting started at about 6:12pm

Committee Reports

Resources & Distributions

Barb Dennis reported on the Resources Committee's next few events.

The workshop on vegetable garden preparation held on March 11 was attended by 65-70 individuals. Attendees did receive presentation materials from the workshop.

The next event is a Succulent Sale and Terrarium Workshop on Saturday April 1st at CCGT. Eva Venable is presenting the workshop.

Plans are being made for the April hardy/annuals plant distribution, date is close to being decided.

Plans are still being made for the May vegetable and flower distribution.

Advocacy and Outreach Committee

Lorraine, representing the committee, indicated at least two of the next steps in addressing the general biosolid-based compost questions before the CCGA. A letter is being drafted for multiple individuals and organizations to support requesting a moratorium on distribution of the MWRD compost at commissioner held events. **Jennifer Walling** from Illinois Environmental Council and **Nance Klehm** are among those involved. Coordination is also occurring to establish the draft CCGA biosolid guidelines for biosolid-based compost usage and testing with among others **Zach Grant** from U of I Extension.

Lorraine thought the draft guidelines would come first and could be used to solicit support for the distribution moratorium.

Mamie Gray indicated that MWRD commissioner **Mariyana Spyropoulos** has already stopped offering the compost at her community events.

Education Committee

Lorraine K. indicated a general email has just been sent about the proposed Community Event series to the entire mailing list and posted on Facebook. This has been done by the ad-hoc planning committee. The first Spring series is titled: How Do We Wake Up Our Garden?

There is a tight turn-around for proposals as these are requested by Thursday, March 30. Decisions about what events to support and notifications are planned for early to mid-April. Other next steps were discussed and will depend upon feedback and responses. Ideally these events will take place after April 22, 2023 and through May 2023.

A long discussion was held about the announcement and providing a cover letter and the flier for others to distribute. Mamie G. also indicated she would forward to the Resources mailing list.

Also briefly discussed was the issue of having a single user for our MailChimp site. This has led to only one CCGA volunteer (Amy Olson) being able to log in to the account. JW Glass is to review and see if we can maintain multiple users with our free account.

Communications Committee

JW Glass mentioned again the process fielding queries from gardeners to find community gardens to participate in or find a plot in their neighborhood and how this depends on a detailed and 'clean' list of gardens and contacts. JW indicated he still needs to send out an invitation to anyone to join the team who will update the garden list and restart this effort from 2022.

Finance

Angela T. stated there has been no change to our financial position since the last coordinating meeting.

Gina Jamison raised the question of committee 'holding' accounts in relation to expenses likely to be incurred supporting the Community Event series. Angela T. said that committees with 'holding accounts' need to submit requests for payments for auditing purposes. These funds were allocated to a committee from the CCGA account prior to the end of the fiscal year for anticipated or planned expenses and are held by the respective committee.

Project/Event Updates

Gina J. also briefed us that efforts to meet with the **Obama Foundation** representatives about a teaching garden continue.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn made by and seconded. The meeting adjourned at around 7pm.

The next monthly coordinating meeting is Tuesday April 18 2023.