

## CCGA Coordinating Committee Meeting Notes for October 17, 2023

Present: JW Glass, Mamie Gray, Angela Taylor, May Toy, Barb Dennis, Kimberly George, Julie Samuels, Gina Jamison, Lorraine Kells and guests Anne O'Brien and Amy Dupuis, Performance Analysts with Office of Inspector General, City of Chicago

Welcome and Call to Order by JW at 6:20pm. Lorraine will take notes. Timekeeper was not necessary.

Minutes from the June meeting were not available. Minutes from September 19, 2023 were approved by motion of JW and seconded by Mamie

6:20-7pm Our guests from OIG talked about the oversight that their office gives to other agencies to gauge whether the department is effective, economical, and operates with integrity. The audit they are planning will look at the Department of Streets and Sanitation, DSS to determine its response to residents and community gardeners concerning rat abatement. Are the department actions timely and in alignment with best IPM practices? The OIG plans to seek engagement and take suggestions from residents and community gardeners. What can be done better? They heard from May and others at the meeting and took notes. May pointed out the DSS needs to get better at targeting toxic agents only in areas where there are not gardens, and treat gardens with a better IPM strategy, offering a more holistic approach. She mentioned peppermint rat spray as a deterrent. Mamie asked about the city's response to other animal complaints. Angela pointed out that we grow food and we feed communities, but when we need support and help from the city it is lacking. We are residents as well as gardeners living near our gardens. We know the value of what we do; we know why we do it. Does the city? It is a two-way street. It was uniformly pointed out that we need a holistic solution.

There is the possibility of a combined meeting with the Park District and NeighborSpace when they offer a workshop on rats, either Nov 14 or Nov. 18. May is looking for space to accommodate a larger meeting. OIG analysts will attend.

### **Project/Event Updates**

Three "How Does Your Garden Grow" events remain.

**Oct 21**, 12-4pm Roseland Community Forest Garden, 10356 S Wabash

**Oct 28**, 12-2 pm. Passion of Pullman Organic Garden and LaMatriz Bakery, 10700 S Cottage Grove.

**Oct 28**, Vedgewater Community Garden, 10:30am-12:30pm, 6300 N Broadway

**It is hoped CCGA people will try to attend these last three events.**

Kim mentioned that she hosts a grant discussion and application group. All are invited to attend 10-11am Please contact Kim [hikimg@gmail.com](mailto:hikimg@gmail.com)

Julie mentioned that the city is starting composting and will need an informational flyer. We can get more information from Marsha. JW volunteered to follow up.

A brief discussion of the November meeting date led to a motion. Angela made the motion, We will keep our November meeting as scheduled, Nov 21, but as a virtual meeting on Zoom. Gina seconded.

#### Committee Reports

##### **Resources & Distributions**

Barb reported that Resources held a perennial distribution in September that exceeded all expectations and those done previously with a total of 6000 plants distributed to gardeners. Resources will hold its Annual Seed Garlic Distribution, Saturday, 10/21/23 at African Garden, 1245 S Central Park. There will also be snowdrop bulbs available. This distribution is open only to community gardeners.

##### **Advocacy and Outreach**

May reported that she is meeting with people interested in starting a community garden in Chinatown. The land is apparently owned by both the State of Illinois and the Park District, so an agreement is in the works to allow this new garden to legally use the property. There is also a garden starting in the Beverly area, harder for May to get to. A question arose about the recent request from Goudy Technology Academy, a PreK-8th grade elementary school in Chicago and their need for help to install and run a greenhouse. The reply from the principal is that he was in touch with Openlands and getting a good response.

May will also meet with people concerning a disability project near UIC where there is concern over significant rat infestation.

May also reported that Lorraine would be serving on the Advisory Council for the Native Plant and Pollinator Garden Ordinance.

**Communications** JW reported that we need a CEGA follow up for the website. People were asked to contribute photos. A call for ideas went out to all for Newsletter and stories.

**Finances** Angela reported that she continues to work with committees to facilitate their financial requests. Angela reported that our current finances are at \$21,000 or after removing the \$10,000 grant, at \$11,000. The Legacy Gardener grant money had not been received yet.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Angela at 7:37. Seconded by Julie.