

CCGA Coordinating Meeting Minutes  
April 16, 2024 - 6pm on Zoom

**Attending:** JW Glass, Barb Dennis, Angela Taylor, Mamie Gray, Marsha Wyatt, Lorraine Kells

Motions were made to accept the March meeting minutes. The meeting called was to order at 6:11pm

### **Project/Event Updates**

In-Person May Meeting: Venues for an in-person May coordinating meeting were discussed. Angela T. indicated she would check with the Hatchery about the May 21 date.

Newsletter planning. Lorraine K. reported that we could expect to see a draft newsletter for an Earth Day release. LK mentioned a summary article on Resources events that might need review and that Earth Day events would be featured.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Resources and Distribution**

Barb D. reported on recent, future and planned Resources events.

On April 6 they held a very well received tool-sharpening event for community gardeners. Attendees received garden gloves, pruners and mini-bags of Purple Cow Bio-Active Supercharger fertilizing powder. A raffle was held for an irrigation kit and the entire event was free. Barb reported that those who attended the event really appreciated the chance to have some of their tools sharpened before the start of the active growing season.

Resources next event is Sat. April 20 and is the Spring Distribution featuring pansies, violas, parsley, seed potatoes, geraniums, and lots of seed packets. Location is the African Heritage Garden at 1245 S. Central Park Ave and starts at 8:30am until all the plants are gone.

Barb also reported that the May Vegtebale Distribution planning is underway and the date will be determined in the coming weeks, more details to follow.

**Advocacy & Outreach** – Marsha W. reported that an email had been received and that Marsha had been in contact with Tara Balcerzak, Program Manager at The Renaissance Collaborative, Inc. which is an adult homeless shelter at 3757 South

Wabash. Tara represents the real estate non-profit entity that is seeking to restore a long standing but dormant garden at the site for residents. The site is a historical landmark and former YMCA built in 1908 specifically to assist African American migrants from the south. Marsha is working with them and more details to follow.

**Education** – Lorraine K. reported that on **Wednesday May 22nd** from 5pm to 8pm the **3rd Legacy Gardner** series video featuring **Julie McClinton** will be premiered at the Garfield Park Conservatory. All CCGA folks are invited and encouraged to attend. The first part of the evening will be networking/snacks/punch etc.. All 3 legacy gardener videos will be shown starting at 6pm and a panel discussion follows about how they kept it all going. The event on the 22nd is part of a larger exhibit titled: **Meeting History: A Garfield Park Citizen Archive** and is on display now through June 21.

You can also catch our own Gina Jamison who is featured along with her extended family in an exhibit in the Community Room as part of the exhibit.

**Communications** – JW Glass reported on the status of website maintenance and ongoing training of our communications team to maintain site and tech infrastructure.

JW then led a discussion of handling volunteer requests from the website. The current approach was discussed. A pool of potential volunteers is stored in a spreadsheet. We need to do a better job of communicating with them and making the connection to any potential volunteer opportunities. We discussed how we might do that now. JW also presented 2 potential WordPress plug-ins that could be of use. Both additional programs are very event-centric and are designed to work with known volunteer opportunities, they are no-cost but require additional work from someone.

**Finance** – No report

At 7:05pm the meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes submitted by JW Glass.

**NOTE:** A reminder, the next meeting on May 21, 2024 is going to be an **IN-PERSON** meeting.