CCGA Coordinating Meeting

Tuesday May 21, 2024 – 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Zoom Virtual Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82680460687?pwd=YlJjbFdDUjVwMWp4Sm5FbytrUjhiUT09

Meeting ID: 826 8046 0687

Passcode: CCGA

6:00pm - 1.   Welcome & Call to Order

- Volunteers for Time-Keeper/Note-Taker
- Agenda/Last Meeting Minutes Review
- Welcome to Guests

6:15pm – 2. Project/Event Updates

- newsletter planning: topics/articles
- next in-person coordinating meeting?
- Veggie Bingo Succession
- Legacy Gardener Film Project Premiere
- any other topics/projects to discuss?

6:40pm - 3. Committee Reports

- Resources
- Advocacy & Outreach
- Education
- Communications
- Finance

7:00pm - 4. Adjourn

Next CCGA Coordinating meeting is June 18, 2024 at 6pm.

CCGA Coordinating meeting notes taken by Sarah Batka
Tues May 21, 6 – 7 pm via Zoom

Attending
Mamie calling in from 708-990-7939
Adolfo of West Lawn Conservation Club
Sarah Batka from U of I Extension sbatka@illinois.edu and 217-300-8636
Deb J – Resource Committee

Bulb Distribution went quickly as Block Club Chi and WBBM news radio announced event.
No Quorum to Approve April Meeting Minutes.

6:20 pm
Project/Event Updates
Newsletter planning: Topics/articles – Lorraine and Amy working on this, not here tonight.
Adolfo suggested would be nice to include community Garden Volunteer workdays.
Next in-person coordinating Meeting? Agenda indicates Next meeting Set for June 18 at 6 pm. Sarah will email Hatchery to book room and JW will include a Zoom option for those who can't attend in person.
Veggie Bingo Succession – Hideout sent email April 24 to Education Committee asking if CCGA wanted to take Veggie Bingo over. Sarah called and Left message for Shivani Singh to find out more.
Legacy Gardener Film Project Premiere tomorrow at GPC.

from Adolfo -
West Lawn Library Mural Unveiling with Los Youth on June 15 with partners, West Lawn Conservation Club and Field Museum theme of Native Plants and pollinator theme. Working on Flyer now.
Partnered with Richardson school and Openlands to plant 40 trees and also hosting a Native Shrub Giveaway incl. Hazelnut, nannyberry, American Persimmon, American Plum, got shrubs from Peggy Notebaert as C3 project
6:45 Deb J had to leave.
Other Topics/Projects to discuss:
AGA Spring in the Garden Event @ Chief O'Neil's Sunday May 26, 3- 6 pm. Will have unclaimed plants from the seedling swap last weekend (excellent selection of peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, herbs, natives)
Diversey Harbor Community Garden Celebration
Sat June 8 at 10:30am. Please RSVP by June 3 at diverseyharborgarden@gmail.com
Mamie has been volunteering at the AgPod
African Garden has begun construction of pergola/gazebo.

6:59 Meeting Adjourned .

CCGA Communications team update 5.21.24

- Maintaining the CCGA Web Site: We have continued to meet and have training sessions for Sarah B. and Mamie G. to make posts and update the event calendar on the CCGA web site, as well as updating the mailing lists we use.
- Volunteer Management: We have looked at various tools to help us manage potential volunteers, most of the tools require a lot of event set-up for pre-planned events and allowing users time to sign up. We feel that our existing approach of recording volunteer responses in a worksheet and communicating with those potential volunteers when we have an event or opportunity is easiest to manage, with little extra work. But, we need to:
o   clean-up our volunteer sign-up pages and check the language;
o   send a follow-up email to those on the volunteer list and let them know they are on our volunteer list and we will contact them if an opportunity presents;
o   we need to let our garden leaders know that there is a large pool of potential volunteers for garden work projects.

- Garden Map/Connecting People with Gardens: I sent some copy much earlier this year that was intended to be published in our newsletter which detailed what additional elements we need from garden leaders to publish to the garden map. This includes a general garden email, garden website, garden Facebook page, garden Instagram site, etc.. Those items allow us to connect people to gardens. We need to send a separate email about this update to our main garden email list to have our garden map be accurate.
- MailChimp Account: We still need additional user accounts set-up in MailChimp. We cannot currently use the service to send emails, only Amy O. has a login for that vendor.
- Google Group/Listserv: Our garden forum works fine. We continually have people requesting to join the forum, sometimes 2-4 a month. There have not been many posts on the forum. I made a recent post about free compost and got some positive feedback so it works fine. You can access the forum through the site pages. I can think of several things we could do to promote the forum and allow easier access.

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