

## CCGA Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2024 - 6pm at The Hatchery, 135 N Kedzie

Attending: JW Glass, Barb Dennis, Gina Jamison, Mamie Gray, May Toy, Marsha May Fran Riley, and Lorraine Kells, with guests Nathan from Wood Street Collective and Emma Pierce, Food System Organizer, First Presbyterian Church of Chicago

Acceptance of June meeting minutes tabled. Lorraine taking notes, no timekeeper  
Meeting called to order **6:29pm**

### **Project/Event Updates**

Remembrances of Julie Samuels were shared by those who knew/ worked with her in advance of calling for ideas for a CCGA tribute for Julie. An ad-hoc committee with Gina, Angela, Mamie, Cordia, and Mary Fran was established to work on creating a lasting reminder and worthy tribute to Julie, who was a force to all of us in CCGA and for every community gardener. Lorraine reported that the CCGA GoFundMe app has raised money for the general fund which may be used for Julie's tribute.

**Please see the remembrances and list of ideas at the end of these notes.**

### **7:11pm**

May and Lorraine gave an update of the proposed agreement between CCGA and AUA on the Chicago Urban Agriculture Ordinance. Proposal for a motion was made. **CCGA will enter into an agreement with AUA to do research and outreach for the development of the Chicago Urban Agriculture Plan (CUAP).** Motion was made by Marsha; seconded by JW. The motion was approved by voice vote with Barb abstaining.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Resources and Distribution**

Barb reported that Scott Byron will donate plants and shrubs for a CCGA Perennial Distribution, Friday, Sept 27. An email blast went out with the flyer and details; flyer was posted on FB.

**Advocacy & Outreach** – Covered in Projects/Event Updates. May has accepted doing a How to Start a Garden Workshop.

**Education** – Requested that the \$400 in LVMH allocated to Advocacy and Outreach for a series of demonstrations and training workshops to deal with rats be transferred to Educations' Legacy Gardner account. Since we requested the Advocacy/Outreach grant, we've learned that Lincoln Park Zoo's Urban Wildlife Institute rolled out a project meeting with community gardeners, making recommendations and holding workshops to help community gardens support biodiversity and reduce negative human-wildlife interactions, particularly with rats. There has been no request from gardeners for help with rats. Proposed motion: **CCGA agrees to move funds totaling \$400 from Advocacy and Outreach to Education's Legacy Gardener account to support the program.** Motion was made by Mary Fran; seconded by May. Motion approved by raised hand, voice vote.

Gina reported that Education will offer flavorful and healthy Fermentation and Lacto Fermentation Workshops Jeanne Calabrese in the fall or winter or early spring.

**Communications** – JW led reported there is a need to build a team of people to meet, post event flyers and notices submitted to CCGA and put them on the calendar in a timely manner. We need to put this blurb in the newsletter.

**Finance** – No report

Emma Pierce, Food System Organizer, First Presbyterian Church of Chicago mentioned that there is a 50'x8' growing space greenhouse. It is passive solar ventilation without colling or heating. There was a question whether this could be considered open to community gardeners on church's land, which may be dependent on funding. Could there be membership? Gina recommended the model of Angela's greenhouse which is available for rental. They will be in touch

A reminder, the next meeting is October 15.

8:05 pm A motion to adjourn was made by Marsha and seconded by Gina

What follows is a summary is a summary of remembrances of Julie

Marsha led off with a remembrance of Julie pointing out that Julie was always ready with resources for rebuilding a garden. Julie's favorite line was that you have to have a community before you have a garden.

Amy remembered when she first met Julie at Growing Pride of Humboldt Park. In 2001.

Gina stated that the reason we have CCGA is because of Julie asking at a meeting, How do we continue to have community gardens?

JW stated he had a lot of notes from those meetings. He also remembered he had a little, lush green community garden going. Julie had asked if she could visit, and arrived with a 64 passenger bus and 50 people got out. It is because of Julie that he is involved.

Mamie said Julie was always a kind person.

Barb noticed that Julie had high expectations for social justice.

Mary Fran testified that Julie and she lived in Oak Park and Julie was often in the Wednesday Journal.

What follows is a summary of ideas put forth as a remembrance/tribute to Julie. My apology for errors in these notes. It was difficult to follow the rapid thread of the conversation.

- A bench at Oak Park Conservancy – a bench is available
- Mattie Wilson has 2 unnamed benches at GPC which could be placed at the Demonstration Garden, or the Demonstration Garden could be renamed as Julie Samuels Demonstration Garden
- A donor wall might hold Julie's name in Oak Park Conservatory. GPC has no such wall. To educate young adults to become a botanist or horticulturalist. Designate contribution to program. There is also a docent program
- The adhoc committee will talk with Julie's family about a bench. Mattie did mention there is a \$5000 price tag which will be adjusted. Also extend the daffodil ribbon
- Mary Fran pointed out that when Julie retired from Openlands, Ellen had a party for her and everyone left with a bulb. From then on bulb distributions have taken place.
- Marsha stated there is a community aspect of creating a memorial
- We should put a quote on CCGA letterhead
- A little Free Library with seeds, books and a program could be created.