

CCGA November 2025 Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes. Compiled by Mamie Gray

Tuesday, November 18, 2025, via Zoom.

Meeting Called to Order at 6:06 p.m.

Attending: Barb Dennis, JW Glass, Mamie Gray, Gina Jamison, Lorraine Kells, Ellen Newcomer, Amy Olson, Mary Fran Riley, Angela Taylor, Marsha Wyatt

The motion to accept the October minutes was not needed because there was no meeting in October.

Ellen informed members that Pat Hart passed away on Monday, November 17. Arrangements for Pat have not, yet, been made. Notes and cards can be sent to Robert at their home address: 650 North Latrobe Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60644-1629. Robert knows how saddened we are by his loss of Pat. It is good to know that he has lots of food from neighbors.

Ellen requested that members send their remembrances of Pat to her so that she can compile a tribute to Pat. Lorraine will also contribute photos.

As Lorraine put it, Pat will be remembered as one of a kind, compassionate, driven, active and complete gardener. Lorraine worked with Pat in the greenhouse, and was treated as family, caring and welcoming, soft, and exact. Lorraine invited the other members to share their personal thoughts and feelings about Pat.

Barb will remember Pat as an authentic person, unapologetic, and confident about her craft. Ellen and Angela agreed that Pat was a no-nonsense person. Pat took care of Robert who was gravely ill during COVID, and Angela will remember them as a loving couple whose devotion to one another would last until the end of time. The last time Angela saw Pat it was a beautiful moment despite the fact that it was during a difficult time for her, yet she was OK and able to put her faith to the wall. Again, Pat will be missed.

Gina also saw Pat as no nonsense and unapologetic. Gina will remember Pat and Robert as a loving couple proud of their accomplishments. Pat was helpful in Gina's Garden, bringing stones, and she loved talking about plants, including the many plants that were in her home on Latrobe. Pat lived plants and lived with plants. It was her life. Marsha met Pat when an electric lawnmower was dropped off in her driveway. There was Pat, big as life, ready with her truck to make the pickup. Another observation that Pat was never a stranger when it came to gardening and resources.

Project/Event Updates

Julie Samuels Tribute

Per Lorraine, a compilation of remembrances for Julie is also planned. Amy presented/shared a draft of a fundraising email for benches to honor Julie at both the Garfield Park and Oak Park conservatories. A cement pad had been laid for the bench which will overlook the Demonstration Garden. The celebration in Garfield Park will be held in Spring. More information and descriptions of benches will be forthcoming, including an invoice that Mary Fran has for a 4-foot metal bench. These benches, of course, will bear Julie's name, however the Oak Park bench will require the approval of the Park District, and the donation does not benefit the Conservatory, so a donor wall may be the remembrance. Along with remembrances of Julie, photos are also being requested. BTW The location of a picture Julie with Angela was not determined if it took place at the Greater Western School Academy or not. Amy will post stories and photos on CCGA website as a page for Julie when we have them available.

Chicago Urban Ag Plan with AUA

Lorraine reported that the listening sessions conducted over the summer and fall have been completed. May Toy and the team are currently analyzing the data from the survey and the sessions so a report can be written and next steps determined.

Native & Pollinator Gardens

On Pollinator Gardens, Lorraine reported that 4 wards are set to dive into the registry for residents and roll out an active program for native plants. Pollinator plants to be included- tulips for early spring, late fall.

Other updates

Mary Fran announced her retirement from Allies for Community Business, A4CB Chicago, but will maintain her involvement with CCGA. Traveling, acquiring a new email address, and downloading personal file are on the agenda (she would welcome any help in downloading files).

Gina had to leave early but thanked JW for the many flowers he shared at various meetings. Although JW has been spending time in Michigan, he will be back in Chicago to save bulbs from his garden in the next few days.

Committee Reports

Resources & Distributions Committee

Barb gave an update about upcoming events:

Sunday, 10/19/25, Bulb and Garlic Seed Distribution, African Heritage Garden Saturday, 11/22/25, Annual Holiday Event: Juline McClinton, Wreath Making Demo; Bridget Schroeder, Container Workshop, The Hatchery

Advocacy & Outreach Committee

See above notes: Urban ag survey is ongoing, native and pollinator gardens is a continued focus area

Communications & Education Committees

Nothing to report

Finance Committee

Angela reported that \$19,000 plus in bank. Would like to solidify order for benches for Julie by Spring, a donation campaign is needed (see update in previous note), a contribution from CCGA is suggested.

MOTION PASSED: “CCGA will support the completion of benches for Julie as needed to complete the process.” Also, “CCGA will explore an action to honor Pat Hart at the appropriate time.”

MOTION PASSED to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m.