

# Native Pollinator Advisory Garden Registry Board Minutes

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Board Member  
Breanne Heath

Board Member  
Brittany Buckles

Board Member  
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Board Member  
Gloria Pittman  
Deputy  
Commissioner –  
DSS

Alderman  
Hopkins  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ward  
Alderman

## Meeting February 6, 2025

Minutes submitted by Lorraine Kells, Secretary

### 1. Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm.

### 2. Roll Call

- In attendance: Jessica Fong, Laura Milkert, Lorraine Kells, Ron Daye, Gloria Pittman, and Breanne Heath
- Not in Attendance: Brittany Buckles
- Attending: Gabriela Wagener-Sobrero; May Toy, President, Skinner Park, Loomis Garden; Daniella Periera, Openlands; Chris Kessler, Openlands; Alma Olavarría Gallegos, Openlands; Liz Kozik, Chicago Botanic Garden; Emily Conn, Lincoln Park Zoo; Emily Parkinson, Greater Rockwell Org.; Claudia Galeno Sanchez Women for Green Spaces, Naomi Davis, Blacks in Green

### 3. Public Comments:

- May Toy raised a concern that time and location of the meeting and agenda were not posted on the City's website; a violation of the Open Meetings Act. She stated that it is important for transparency and would render any actions taken by the board illegal. As a registry, not a certification, rules should follow the ordinance so that garden practices do not harm pollinators. May asked the board to prioritize creation of the registry before addressing the issue of parkway gardens which require liability insurance and a CDOT parkway permit.
- Liz Kozik spoke of low growing native plant species and creating resources for public spaces. The Botanic Garden wants to be a resource. Liz mentioned 52 perennial species from 12'-24' in height, but a few like little bluestem can reach a mature height  $\geq 5'$ .
- Alma Olavarría Gallegos presented a slide deck (see attached) with the deep dive that UFAB had done with their working looking into the City's landscape ordinance and neighboring or related ordinances to engage and encourage public participation. The UFAB will compare municipal codes across many municipalities. Los Angeles and Evanston have stated height maturity of  $\leq 36''$  Three questions were posed to this board for a vote at another meeting: **1** Would the Advisory Board approve recommendations to increase height maximum? **2** Is the proposed increase of 24'' agreeable to the Board? **3** Would the Board support continued

collaboration with UFAB for the passage of such an ordinance.

Board members continued discussion of plant material height, plant species types and the possibility of a positive response from local nurseries to supply material. Flowering weeds, certain types of clover, new pollinator habitat and habitat corridors that provide food sources and nesting space for pollinators should be considered. Breanne recommended the state list of noxious weeds.

#### Action Items

Develop a time line for the registry draft

Set approval date by DSS

Open the Registry

Meeting Adjourned 4:30pm