

Native and Pollinator Advisory Garden Registry Board

Minutes

Meeting January 9, 2024

President
Jessica Wong

Vice President
Laura Milker

Secretary
Lorraine Kells

Board Member
Naomi Davis

Board Member
Breanne Heath

Board Member
Brittany Buckles

Board Member
Ron Daye

Board Member
Gloria Pittman
Deputy
Commissioner
– DSS

Alderman
Hopkins
2nd Ward
Alderman

Minutes submitted by Lorraine Kells, Secretary.

1. Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 10:16 am.

2. Roll Call

- In attendance: Jessica Fong, Laura Milkert, Lorraine Kells, Ron Daye, Gloria Pittman
- Not in Attendance: Naomi Davis, Brittany Buckles, Breanne Heath
- Attending: Gabriela Wagener-Sobrero; Paul Naylor, 40th Ward Working Group; A.J. Riggs, Jefferson Park Pollinator Gardens; Tricia Van Eck, Edgewater Environmental Coalition EEC; Jeffrey Ohmes, Wild World Gardens; Alma Olavarría Gallegos, Openlands

3. Public Comments:

- Paul presented a draft resolution promoting the use of native plants in the city parkways. The Working Group requests that this be considered to scale up the of work EEC to City Hall through creating legislation and policy changes. Paul continued discussion of standard practice of parkway planting and maintenance. P4P proposal for a homeowner-led parkway planting was presented.
- AJ Riggs, Jefferson Park Pollinator Gardens requested clarification of confusing language concerning parkway gardens as well as clarification of permits.
- Tricia Van Eck gave a short overview of history and goals of EEC's P4P. Tricia stated need for a legislative change enabling climate action in Chicago. 7195 acres of parkway in the city and gives advantage to create an economy of scale with them

- Discussion: Jessica asked Gloria to explain what is currently happening regarding citations and fines, Gloria responded that the DSS ward superintendent manages this process by visually surveying their wards, responding to complaints, and providing direction to weed-cutting contractors where weeds in yards or lots are cited. The ward superintendent handles communication to determine if there are native plants. If native plants are erroneously cut down the city must replace them. The weed ordinance speaks to weeds left untended by individuals who may be fined \$600 to \$1200. The fine is set by legislative, law department.
- Ron Daye stated parkway permits are obstruction based; a plant height is considered an obstruction, but we may replace language to allow an 18-24" flexibility.

4. Action Item:

- Subcommittees will be established to handle wording changes for a workable solution to the process and determine how the registry will work. Suggestions will be taken from the 5 people attending.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:35 am