

# Native Pollinator Advisory Garden Registry Board Minutes

## Meeting March 6, 2025

Minutes submitted by Lorraine Kells, Secretary

President  
Jessica Fong

Vice President  
Laura Milkert

Secretary  
Lorraine Kells

Board Member  
Naomi Davis

Board Member  
Brittany Buckles

EX-Officio  
Board Members

Breanne Heath

Ron Daye

Gloria Pittman  
Deputy  
Commissioner –  
DSS

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

### 1. Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 2:35 pm.

### 2. Roll Call

- In attendance: Jessica Fong, Laura Milkert, Lorraine Kells, Brittany Buckles, Naomi Davis, Ron Daye, Gloria Pittman, and Breanne Heath
- Not in Attendance: Ald Brian Hopkins sent notification

### 3. Public Comments: None

Motion to approve Feb 6 Meeting Minutes was called by Jessica, approved by Breanne. A procedural point of order made by Lorraine stated that the minutes did not contain the slide deck prepared by the Urban Forestry Advisory Board, Policy Working Group. It was determined the minutes would be corrected and reposted. Breanne withdrew the motion. It was determined that a draft of the meeting minutes for all future meetings would be sent to members before being posted.

### Board Discussion:

**Location:** Members discussed future meeting locations with consideration for ease of access for the public. City attorney Rey Phillips\_Santos advised that meetings should be held in public buildings, in offices with no conflict of interest involving city contracts. Information sessions may be held in neighborhoods to provide education about the registry with board members attending once the registry is running.

Call for vote on a location for was made by Jessica. A unanimous vote determined City Hall for future meetings April 3, May 1, June 5, pending audio-visual capability for virtual attendance of any board member. Gloria will coordinate with Jessica if the meeting is bumped. 4837 S. Western is an alternate location.

### Review of UFAB Questions - Feb 6 meeting:

**Would this Advisory Board approve a recommendation to increase the height maximum for parkway plant heights?** This change is not what we are responsible for but what the landscape ordinance proposes as height related to the weed ordinance of 10" no matter what our board does. See 10-322-055 (d) We cannot have conflicting ordinances. The Board can support a recommendation, but it

will not be supported if the weed ordinance remains in effect. Consideration should be given to the Illinois Noxious Weed Law which as of 2017 (not updated) listing noxious weeds by genus and species to be controlled and eradicated and City or County authority to regulate weeds and grass length, and may declare them a public nuisance if they exceed certain heights.

**Is the proposed increase of 24 inches agreeable to the Board?** This would be a design criteria increasing 10" to 24", but does that height cut out some natives? Proposal of 24" for parkway plant height would go against the weed ordinance and create a new category involving use of the public right of way. Our ordinance is restrictive. If "you" are in our registry, you are not subject to the weed ordinance, but you may be removed from our registry if the parkway plant height exceeds the ordinance limit, and then be ticketed. Changes would have to go through City council, but City attorneys are adamant about the parkway. 10-32-055 (d) (2) and (d)(e) (1). Mounded parkway gardens would be subject to fines as 10" is measured from the sidewalk.

**Would the Board support continued collaboration with UFAB for the passage of such an ordinance?** Clarification is sought as to what continued collaboration with UFAB would be and what attendance or participation for board members would be required. Would this be a broad or a specific collaboration? 10-32-055 is not a landscape ordinance.

Discussion tabled until further clarification with UFAB.

Discussion continued as to what the registry should do. Consider private vs public way as this registry does apply to private property, consider occupied property or community garden on residential property, and consider vacant property that is not maintained. IEC document was not pertinent as it was not current; a section of Chicago's Municipal code was cited by Jessica, but board members also dismissed this.

An internal timeline was discussed to allow for fall planting and spring and fall. Cole Stallard, Commissioner for the Department of Streets and Sanitation will be consulted for scheduling. Implementation is planned for 2026 with an application process over the winter in 2025 and a spring public launch in 2026. Further discussion considered.

**Protocol** and process for application. Do we want signage?

**Design Parameters** Keeping 10" height limit only for parkway not front or back yard. Design takes into account criteria for mature plantings, trees, and shade. Operationally, design will focus on parameters not aesthetics. More protocols to be considered: parkway, occupied & community gardens, front yard, and backyard criteria (d) (2)

**Action Items**

Create our own FAQ's

Subcommittees were established: Laura and Breanne will look at the application process for the registry reflective of what is in the ordinance

Jessica and Brittany will delve into the language

Both committees endeavor to keep the ordinance language "open."

Meeting adjourned 4:07 pm.

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

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,