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Gloria Pittman
Deputy
Commissioner –
DSS

Alderman
Hopkins
2nd Ward
Alderman

Native Pollinator Advisory Garden Registry Board Minutes

Meeting June 6, 2025

Minutes submitted by Lorraine Kells, Secretary

1. Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 2:47 pm.

2. Roll Call

- In attendance: Jessica Fong, Laura Milkert, Lorraine Kells, Brittany Buckles, Naomi Davis, Ron Daye, Gloria Pittman, and Breanne Heath

Public Attending:

- Gaby Wagener-Sobrero, Environmental Justice Project Manager at City of Chicago - Department of Environment, Liz Anna Kozik, Chicago Botanic Garden, and Rethinking Lawns Research Coordinator.

Motion to approve May Meeting Minutes was made by Breanne, seconded by Gloria, and approved by all.

Brief discussion to reschedule or cancel July meeting was tabled for later in the meeting.

3. Public Comment: None

4. Report and Board Discussion

Liz Anna presented a spreadsheet of the top 200 most common plants and two color-coded charts for consideration of the recommended height of planting in the parkway for reasoning out the most ideal plant height for the most pollinator support. Metrics determined how many pollinators are supported and how easy it is to buy. Categories on charts were how common the plants are, number of average pollinators, number of median pollinators, number of maximum pollinators. Discussion summarized that height limits the number of plants gardeners can get. Taller is cheaper and easier to get; summer species are taller. Discussion concluded that the “sweet spot” for plants is in the 13-36” range with most the pollinators per inch although taller is better with a “sweet spot between 36-48” with plant species more available and commonly found in any neighborhood nursery, below that height more expensive. Spreadsheet may be found at <https://tinyurl.com/pollinatorz>.

An education piece will be needed to consider bushy plants, parkway depth with 18” setback, depth of soil in parkway, rules for planting around hydrants, and plant height that we choose.

Further discussion of safety vs pollinator impact, soil quality and water and shade in Chicago with plant height shorter.

Call to entertain the motion: **The managed native and pollinator garden registry amends the current height restriction of 10” for parkway gardens to allow any managed native and pollinator garden in a parkway to maintain a height of 36” inches.** Motion made by Naomi; seconded by Jessica. Motion carries with a unanimous vote.

Launch of registry by spring with a subcommittee to present/introduce the amendment to Ald Hopkins and the Committee on the Environment, with a goal of moving from Sept-October in council and registry in place Jan to Spring.

Motion entertained: The Native and Pollinator Registry Board cancel its July meeting while committees still meet. Gloria approved. Lorraine seconded. Vote unanimous. All city departments will be notified.

Breanne and Laura will continue to build the application for review. Jessica will work on the education component and Naomi will be an alternate.

Action items

Who will fund this?

What is the capacity?

A letter of support and testimony

Meeting adjourned 4:00 pm

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

will not
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support
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weed
ordinan
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remains
in
effect.
Conside
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should
be
given to
the

keep the ordinance language “open.”

**Action
Items**

Meeting adjourned 4:07 pm.

Create
our own
FAQ’s

Subcom
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establis
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Laura
and
Breann
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Jessica
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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

collaboration

with UFAB for the passage of such an ordinance. Meeting Adjourned 4:30pm

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