



**University of Illinois Extension
8751 S. Greenwood Ave., Suites 112-122
Chicago, IL 60619
Cook County Extension Council Meeting
Thursday, June 20, 2024
Minutes**

Meeting Attendees: Mary Harkenrider, Eric Meredith, Geri Redd, Dedra Ries, Mona Strahan.

Staff Attendees: Willene Buffett, Michael Neil.

Welcome and Introductions

The vice chair, Eric Meredith, called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. The meeting attendees introduced themselves.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

They were reviewed, but approval was postponed due to a lack of quorum.

County Director's Updates

- **3-year Civil Rights Compliance Review.** The committee reviewed three years of documentation to ensure that we are making every reasonable effort to be inclusive to all county populations regarding all programs we offer to the public. On June 18, we met with the committee to review their findings.
- **May 13 visit from the Extension Academy.** The academy comprises U of I Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) faculty who also hold Extension appointments. The visit aims to increase collaboration and cooperation between faculty members and Extension units.

The updates led to a group discussion about,

- Past Extension collaborations with UIUC and U of I Chicago.
- The need to increase male participation in the Master Gardner program.
- The unit's current volunteer recruitment strategy.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- **New Extension Council member recruitment.** The goal is to establish a council that reflects the county's geographic and demographic makeup. The group discussed past recruitment strategies and suggested a group meeting offline to work on a recruitment strategy.

Other Business

- The importance of council members being actively involved with their assigned teams was reiterated.
- The group revisited creating a platform (such as Google Drive) to share documents and information with the council.

Announcements



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- None

The meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

The next meeting date is September 19, 2024.

Minutes respectively submitted by Michael Neil.