

Cook County Extension Council Meeting
Thursday, December 19, 2024
Quad Communities Development Corporation
4210 S. Berkeley Ave.
Chicago, IL 60653
10:00 am
Minutes

Present: R. Juarez, G. Redd, M. Harkenrider, E. Meredith.

Staff: Director Buffett, Assistant Director Parker, R. Falk, A. Peralta

Welcome:

- President Juarez started the meeting at 10:23 am
- President Juarez welcomed the group

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

- There was no quorum to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. There is a correction for the President's Last Name: Juarez

County Director Updates:

- Director Buffett introduced Rainah Folk. Rainah presented the Countrywide Comprehensive Needs Assessment Survey draft to the council and asked the members to feel free to make any comments or suggestions. She also made a note that the Environmental Summit will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2025 (not in October, as mentioned during the meeting) at the Chicago Botanic Garden. The overarching theme is "Training Communities on their Response to Climate Change," with a narrower focus on adaptations to stormwater (mitigation, action steps, community response, etc.). Invitations will be extended to municipalities, the governor/lieutenant governor, and local interested parties. Director Buffett will share any additional relevant information about the summit.
- The survey will help us identify the needs of the residents of Cook County
- Parker added that it will help us understand the needs of the organizations that we work with to provide better services
- Juarez asked to be included in the partner's list to provide support
- Rainah will send the survey link to the council
- Director Buffet mentioned that she is serving and chairing the Environment Summit Fall 2025; all the municipalities will be invited to participate, and she asked the council to spread the word. She will provide more details at a later date. She asked the question: Think about who will benefit from this summit.
- Geri Asked to provide them with the scope of the summit to understand better
- Mary mentioned that the Garden Team is doing great work; they are trying to reach out to different demographics; she also mentioned that the Master Gardeners are having issues putting their hours online at the end of the year, and the platform is not friendly to use.
- Juarez asked if there is a program coordinator who can assist the master gardeners in putting their hours in; Mary replied that the program coordinator assisted them in putting their hours in.

- Juarez mentioned that they can reach out to the person responsible for the platform to make it more user-friendly.

Announcements:

Next Meeting Date: March 20, 2025, from 10:00 am to 11:00 am, at Solutions for Care, 7222 W. Cermak Rd., Suite 200, North Riverside, IL 60546

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm