

MINUTES
LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL
Thursday , April 26 , 2018

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting called to order at 9:00 A.M. in conference room 3A/3B at the Jean Oxley Public Service Center, 935 2nd St. SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

CALL TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL :

PRESENT Rachel Schramm, Linn County Public Health, Vice Chair
:

Laura Seyfer, At-Large
Tess Romanski, At-Large
Chris Thoms, At-Large
Joe Stutler, At-Large
Sofia Mehaffey, Horizons
RaeAnn Gordon, ISU Extension

ABSENT: Pam Oldham, Medical Provider/Registered Dietician
Linda Gorkow, HACAP, Chair
John Huntington, Food Distribution/Processing

STAFF: Les Beck, Director Linn County Planning and Development
Mike Tertinger, Linn County Planning and Development, Staff
Jill Mathey, Secretary

Public Comments

None

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Thoms seconded by Romanski and carried, all members present voting yes, to approve the March 22, 2018 LCFSC minutes as submitted.

Planning Committee Updates

- **Photovoice Project**

Two of the students involved in the Photovoice project gave an update to the council. They brought a ready-made display board they purchased on line, and explained that it fit into the budget, and they thought it would be easier to store and transport than the one they had planned to construct, and also gave them more time to focus on the rest of the project.

The students said they interviewed several Urban and rural participants, and said they had received two of the cameras back so far. They are now working to put the display together, and passed around an example of what the finished product will look like.

The students explained they decided to wait until next fall to do the video, as they do not feel they have enough quality footage at this time.

Stutler suggested the students interview each other about what they learned while participating in the project.

Thoms asked the students what the most surprising thing they learned during their research was. Both students said they have enjoyed the project, learned a lot about hunger and food insecurity, and were very surprised at the willingness and helpfulness of the participants, and how quickly people can become food insecure due to unexpected life changes.

Stutler suggested they contact one of the local TV stations, and have them interview some of the students participating in the project and do a story on the Photovoice project.

The council discussed the final costs of the project for plaques, gift cards for participants and replication of the display board.

BOS Quarterly Update Topics (tentatively May 7, 2018)

The council discussed what topics to present to the BOS, and decided that Seyfer will give a preview of the Photovoice project to the BOS at their May 7, 2018 meeting, and the students will give their final presentation to the BOS on May 16, 2018.

Tertinger said Gorkow will give a HACAP update, and Romanski will speak about the Matthew 25 High School program at the May 7, 2018 BOS meeting.

Schramm suggested FSC members attend the May 16, 2018 BOS meeting if possible.

Beck informed the council that Dubuque County has formed their own Food Policy Council and said they have a budget of \$5000, and have their own grant program, that their BOS has allocated \$20,000 for projects.

Beck thought the LCFSC should talk to the BOS at one of their monthly meetings about our council having a similar type of program.

Monthly Budget Report

There were expenditures of \$0 during April, leaving an operating budget of \$3107.00 as of April 30, 2018. Tertinger explained that they have purchased \$800 in gift cards and have an additional \$1000 allocated for the Photovoice project.

Beck said he thinks we should review the LCFSC \$2000 funding of Jake Kundert's position at a future meeting.

The group discussed the fiscal budget and asked if we would lose funds that we had not spent, Beck said the council could request any remaining money in the budget roll over to the next year.

Membership Discussion

Tertinger said based on the LCFSC guidelines; we can have up to 15 members on the council.

The council discussed current membership vacancies for grower, producer, restaurant/ institution, and economic development.

Several contacts were discussed which included both Kirkwood Agriculture and Culinary Institutes, farm manager Zach from Sugar Grove Farms, and vendors from local Farmers Markets.

Schramm said she contacted all of the Linn County CSA'S off the Iowa State website.

Mehaffey will contact Jen Draper with the Economic Alliance, vendors from local Farmers Markets and try to get in touch with someone Feed Iowa First.

Schramm will reach out to Stephanie Neff to see if she is interested in becoming member or if she knows of anyone who would be interested.

Gordon will reach out to Future Farmers of America.

2018 Work Plan Discussion

Schramm suggested the council discuss and update the Work Plan. The group reviewed the calendar of future LCFSC and FEA meetings, and discussed several ideas for how to accomplish this.

Schramm suggested they have a special meeting to focus on the FSC priorities and action steps.

The council decided they would try to schedule a special meeting in September, as the summer is very busy and there are many absences.

Gordon suggested Eric Christiansen would be a great person to help create the Work Plan, as he was instrumental in doing this at ISU Ext.

Gordon informed the council of the annual Hunger Banquet, which is held in September or October, and explained it is a joint fundraiser of United Way North and Linn County FFA. Gordon said she would have more information on a time and date later this year.

Open Discussion

There will be no May 24, 2018 FSC meeting, so members may attend the Linn County Public Health Community Health Assessment Planning Process meeting at Indian Creek Nature Center from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM.

Beck gave a brief overview of the 180-acre Dows Farm project, explained it is just in the early planning stages, and said the planning team met several times and decided to go with a combined agri- community and conservation development.

Beck presented the display board of the Phase 1 concept plan submitted by the consultant, and explained it includes walking trails, housing, working farms, gardens etc.

Beck told the council that 75% of the property is allocated to working farm or conservation space.

Beck said they are working on Phase 2 of the project, and said design guidelines and ordinances will need to be written to allow this type of development.

Beck said the reaction to the plan has been mixed, but said the BOS is supportive of the plan.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30AM.