

MINUTES
LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL
Thursday, June 27th, 2019

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was 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 Laura Seyfer, At-Large, Co-Chair

:

August Stolba, Feed Iowa First, Co-Chair

Chris Thoms, At-Large

Sofia Mehaffey, Horizons

Pam Oldham, Medical Provider/Registered Dietician

Kim Guardado, HACAP

ABSENT: RaeAnn Gordon, ISU Extension

Joe Stutler, At-Large

Emma Johnson, Grower/Producer

Lynette Richards, Restaurant/Institution

OTHERS Scott Koepke, Facilitator

PRESENT Stephanie Schrader, Community Well Being Liaison

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STAFF: Mike Tertinger, Linn County Planning and Development, Staff

Charlie Nichols, Planning & Zoning Division Manager

Jessie Black, Recording Secretary

Ryan Sampica, Permit Tech

Jake Kundert, IVRCD

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Thoms, seconded by Mehaffey and carried, all members present voting yes, to approve the May 23rd, 2019 LCFSC minutes as submitted.

Monthly Budget Report

Tertinger said the remaining account balance as of month end is \$3,914.16

Update on Wellmark Small MATCH Grant for Linn County Food System Assessment

Charlie Nichols submitted the grant application along with several letters of support, and is expecting to hear back in August. The goal is to have \$50,000 to put towards a Food Systems Assessment. FSC will use the remaining balance from FY19, the new allotment for FY20 and grant monies to fund assessment. Nichols let the council members know that ISU Extension estimated \$10-15,000 for overview, but in depth assessment requires more money. There is a two-year timeline.

Jim Hodina; Food Rescue Project Update

Hodina informed the group that Linn County Public Health submitted a budget request to the Board of Supervisors for a food rescue program and it was approved in the amount of \$20,000. He explained that the money be used for the following objectives: to fund a Food Systems Assessment, to create an app similar to ChowBank to connect donors and producers, and to fund some kind of educational outreach event to bring donors and recipients together.

Hodina said there were several guests (overproducers) at the last meeting with the Food Safety Advisory Council in June; Fareway, DoubleTree, Caseys, etc. He added that the Food Rescue Program has become Linn County Food Safety Advisory Council's number one issue. Hodina said he would like to put together a governance committee to spearhead the project. Hodina mentioned the need to have non-profit organizations involved with the project. He asked if any of the members would like to be involved. Mehaffey and Guardado both expressed interest. Hodina said he would send Public Health's meeting schedule to Tertinger for him to distribute to all interested parties.

Update on Dubuque Food Systems Policy Council Meeting

Tertinger, Nichols, Stolba and Dewald all attended the Dubuque Food Systems Policy Council meeting on June 5th. Tertinger said the event was great for networking. Stolba stated that the meeting really brought to light the importance of relationships, specifically between the Food Systems Council and Board of Supervisors. Dewald said Chuck Isenhardt would like to facilitate a meeting with local politicians and discuss current issues. Isenhardt offered to speak with the Board of Supervisors on the council's behalf.

Learning Sessions 6 Month Recap with guest facilitator Scott Koepke

Koepke discussed the possibility of diversification and setting some realistic goals for 2021. He gave a brief overview on key points made by previous guest speakers. He concluded that educational awareness was one common denominator between all of the recent guest speakers. Koepke explained that he and Jason Grimm from IVRCD used to host an event between producers and procurers called Come to the Table and thought it might be a good idea to do again.

Discuss high priority Food System issues to date

Koepke suggested all members of the council state their top priority, based on the information they've gathered from the last six months' worth of guest speakers. Koepke then made a list of all suggestions/ideas on the white board.

Some of the priorities discussed were:

- Loan officers unwillingness/inability to diversify
- Sustainability
- Food Insecurity
- Transportation/distribution
- Education about our local food system
- Materials/handouts reflecting current food system issues
- Obesity, health/nutrition
- Agri-tourism
- Come to the Table 2.0

Nichols, while discussing agri-tourism, brought up the idea of having a couple members of FSC help to improve Linn County's current code in order to better support agri-tourism. He asked if any members would be interested in contacting agri-tourism sites and facilitating a non-biased conversation regarding different hurdles/struggles faced while getting established. Members would then report back to staff and offer suggestions on how to better accommodate such sites. A few members expressed interest.

Several members of the council discussed funneling the list of priorities into a smaller, more "doable" work plan with only 2- 3 main objectives.

Dewald brought up the idea of hosting some kind of regional collaboration among Food Policy Councils.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

Jessie Black, Recording Secretary

, Co-Chair