

MINUTES
LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL
Thursday , June 28 , 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:

Schramm announced that there are two new council members, Emma Johnson and Lynette Richards, so the FSC members introduced themselves; told what agency they are with and a little bit about themselves.

Lynette Richards was unable to attend the meeting.

PRESENT Linda Gorkow, HACAP, Chair
: Rachel Schramm, Linn County Public Health, Vice Chair
 Laura Seyfer, At-Large
 Tess Romanski, At-Large
 Chris Thoms, At-Large
 Sofia Mehaffey, Horizons
 Emma Johnson, Grower/Producer
 Pam Oldham, Medical Provider/Registered Dietician

OTHERS: David Thielen; Director of Linn County Community Services

ABSENT: RaeAnn Gordon, ISU Extension & Outreach
 Joe Stutler, At-Large
 John Huntington, Food Distribution/Processing
 Lynette Richards, Restaurant/Institution

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

Gorkow informed the council that due to other obligations, she was resigning as Chairperson. Vice Chair Schramm suggested, they elect a co-chair to serve with her.

Motion by Oldham seconded by Mehaffey and carried, all members present voting yes, to elect Seyfer to serve as Co-Chair with Schramm.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Thoms seconded by Mehaffey and carried, all members present voting yes, to approve the April 26, 2018 LCFSC minutes as submitted.

Public Comment

Mehaffey shared some information pertaining to the well-being advisory committee, about an innovative employee wellness and mindfulness event she attended, and said it was very informative.

Mehaffey informed the council that The City of Cedar Rapids did not renew its contract with the "Blue Zones" initiative, saying it is too expensive, but now it is looking to become a Healthy Hometown. Committee members are working with Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield on the Healthy Hometown program.

The council discussed several items pertaining to healthy living, which included; community gardens grow kits, the seed savers program, paring food insecurity with the medical field and transportation barriers for people to be able to get to food pantries, farmers markets etc.

Schramm will email the group to arrange a discussion on these topics.

Monthly Budget Report

There were expenditures of \$0 during May, leaving an operating budget of \$3107.00 as of May 31, 2018.

The council discussed any remaining funds; Beck said the council could request a roll back of these funds in the fall amendment, the council decided they would do this.

Photovoice Update

Seyfer gave a brief overview of the Photovoice project, explained what was involved in making the display board, the costs of the project and told how the students interviewed people from all walks of life, and gave out cameras for people to take pictures of their ideas and images of food insecurity.

Seyfer explained that they decided to wait on making the video until they had more footage, and said the students would resume this project in the fall.

Seyfer said the students presentation to the BOS was well received, and thought they did a wonderful job.

Beck said he attended the meeting and thought the students did an excellent job, and said the board members seemed very impressed with the project.

The council discussed the future of the project and how to get other companies and volunteers involved.

After a lengthy discussion, which included ideas of periodically swapping out pictures and stories, developing virtual displays and E-displays on the FSC website, Beck suggested they develop two more traveling display boards, which would be available to check out for various events and displays.

The council agreed to fund the costs of two additional display boards, which will cost approximately \$1200, Schramm said LCPH interns could work with Iowa Big to construct them.

Certified Local Program update

Kundert gave an update on the Certified Local program and explained it has been a long process to determine boundaries and what is considered a local product. Kundert explained there would be a logo on the product to certify and allow the public to know which items are actually local.

Beck informed the council there is a meeting on July 23, 2018 and Kundert said he would attend meetings be the bridge between the two groups.

Beck asked Kundert to pass on to Michelle Kenyon that the LCFSC reaffirms its commitment to the program.

Beck and Tertinger reminded the council that the LCFSC has this as one of their work items, and agreed to support the Certified Local program last year when Michelle Kenyon gave a presentation to the FSC.

Schramm will put this item on the agenda for next month for continued discussion.

Sonia Kendrick Memorial

Dora Bopp from Feed Iowa First reached out to see if the FSC had any ideas for a memorial for Sonia Kendrick, and said they would be interested in working with the FSC on this.

The council discussed several ideas, which included; doing a special garden, memorial bench or something else at Dows Farm, develop a grant program named after her, a Mural for Feed Iowa First & Film Festival on Sustainable Ag.

Schramm asked the members to continue to think of ideas, and suggested they discuss at a future meeting when Dora Bopp can attend.

Dubuque Food Policy Council (Les/ Laura)

Beck said he and Schramm attended the kickoff for Dubuque Food Policy Council meeting at the Convivium Urban Farmstead in Dubuque IA, and explained that they haven't formed the council as of yet, but said their BOS has allocated \$4000 in operating funds and \$20,000 discretionary funds they said they discussed different ways to use the funding,

Beck said they toured the farmstead and explained that due to lack of space, they grow food on some neighbor's properties, and explained; they are doing edible landscaping and have raised

gardens painted yellow in locations around town, which designates that they are accessible to the public.

The council discussed doing this locally and the barriers to do this.

Beck also said they have an event center, demonstration kitchen and a coffee shop and said these could be ideas to incorporate in the Dows Farm project.

Seyfer said Dane and Madison County Food System Councils were there also, and shared some of their ideas and information on their programs.

Timeline Review (September strategic planning)

Schramm discussed the timeline and said she would develop a Word document timeline, and email to the council for their review and input.

Tertinger suggested they schedule an extended September meeting to discuss the Work Plan and other pertinent items.

Support for Coe College Grant Proposal

Tertinger explained; the council would need to decide if they want to make a motion to support the Food at the Margins: A Proposal to the Professional Development for Secondary School Teachers and Education Professionals (PD-STEP) Program, and discussed the provided information.

Motion by Thoms seconded by Gorkow and carried, all members present voting yes, to support the proposal.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:30