

MINUTES
LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL
Thursday, July 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: Co-chair Seyfer called the meeting to order

WELCOME NEW MEMBER: Lynette Richards

ELECT NEW SECRETARY:

Motion by Mehaffey seconded by Oldham and carried, all members present voting yes, to elect Mehaffey as secretary.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT Laura Seyfer, At-Large, Co-Chair

:

Sofia Mehaffey, Horizons
RaeAnn Gordon, ISU Extension
Pam Oldham, Medical Provider/Registered Dietician
Linda Gorkow, HACAP
Lynette Richards, Restaurant/Institution

ABSENT: Chris Thoms, At-Large
John Huntington, Food Distribution/Processing
Tess Romanski, At-Large
Rachel Schramm, Linn County Public Health, Co-Chair
Joe Stutler, At-Large
Emma Johnson, Grower/Producer

OTHERS: Isla DeWalt, Johnson County Local Food Coordinator
Ashley Balius, Linn County Community Outreach
Stephane Schrader, Community Well Being Liaison

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

Tertinger informed the council that Tess Romanski resigned from the FSC, as she will be moving to India for 10 months for a fellowship program.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Oldham seconded by Gorkow and carried, all members present voting yes, to approve the June 28, 2018 LCFSC minutes as submitted.

Monthly Budget Report

Tertinger said the FSC ended the fiscal year with \$ 2307, and as of July 1, 2018, they have an operating budget of \$4000. Tertinger said the FSC could request that the \$2307 roll over in the fall.

Project Updates

Photovoice Project

Seyfer gave an overview of the Photovoice project and said that Iowa Big collaborated with the FSC on this project, and explained the students interviewed several people and gave out disposable cameras for them to take pictures and share their thoughts about food insecurity, and have them share their experiences.

Seyfer explained that the students gave a presentation to the BOS, and said they were very responsive to the project.

The students plan to create two additional Photovoice boards and a video this fall to add to the display.

Mehaffey suggested they take the Photovoice board to the Hunger Summit in Des Moines IA on October 17, 2018.

Tertinger explained that the boards would be stored at the LC Planning and Development office and said individuals /companies can check them out.

Mercy Medical Center plans to check out the Photovoice board from August.5-18, for their Freedom from Hunger Food Drive.

HACAP will check out the Photovoice board from Mercy for the month of September.

Gordon informed the council about a hunger banquet on September 10, at North Linn Middle School. The banquet is to learn more about food distribution and poverty in our community. United Way, Farm Bureau Ext., North Linn FFA and a few other organizations will attend. Proceeds will fund a student led project that address hunger in North Linn.

North Linn FFA will have a Photovoice board on display at the banquet.

Ashley Balius, Director of Community Outreach and Assistance at Linn County introduced herself to the FSC.

Lynette Richards, Feed Iowa First introduced herself and gave an update on several of their current projects, and said they are planning to hold a fundraiser dinner in late October or early November, which will also honor Feed Iowa First volunteers and Founder Sonia Kendrick.

Johnson County Local Food Coordinator Isla DeWald introduced herself and shared some background information, and talked about organizations and some projects she is working on.

There was a group discussion about some of the projects, which included working with local farmers, the Johnson County Food Policy Counsel, local food branding, Field to Family, projected plans for the Johnson County Poor Farm, and The Food Hub.

DeWald said she plans to attend some future meetings, and could be a liaison between the Johnson County Food Policy Council and the LCFSC.

Discussion Items

September Strategic Planning session

The council will hold its strategic planning session on September 27 from 8:00 AM-12:00PM.

Scott Koepke, Director of Grow: Johnson County will facilitate the meeting, and work with the LCFSC to create a new work plan.

Tertinger said if anyone wanted to have pre-meetings with Scott, to let him know and he will schedule them.

FSC Grant Program

Tertinger explained that he would like to work with the LCFSC to develop and run a grant program similar to the one that the Linn County Historical Preservation Commission has. Tertinger passed around a draft to the council members, and told the group the proposed grant program is currently titled; The Sonia Kendrick Memorial Sustainable Agricultural Grant Program, but that the name is not definite at this time.

Tertinger explained he would like feedback from the FSC to create topics, applications, project lists, eligibility requirements, grant amounts, help in defining the purpose and mission of the grant program, etc.

August 6th BOS quarterly update

Gorkow volunteered to speak to the BOS at their August 6 meeting on current food insecurity statistics in Linn County.

Open Discussion

Gorkow shared information on Linn County Master Gardeners “Connect. Grow. Share a Row.”

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 AM.