

**MINUTES**  
**LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL**  
**Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was called to order at 9:01 A.M. in conference room 3A/3B at the Jean Oxley Public Service Center, 935 2<sup>nd</sup> St. SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**REAPPOINTMENTS:** Sofia Mehaffey agreed to remain as a member on the council. Thoms nominated Mehaffey to continue as secretary. The nomination was approved by unanimous consent.

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** August Stolba, At-Large, Co-Chair  
Lynette Richards, Restaurant/Institution  
Chris Thoms, At-Large  
Emma Johnson, Grower/Producer  
Kim Guardado, HACAP  
Sofia Mehaffey, Horizons  
Joe Stutler, At-Large  
Cindy Fiester, Linn County Public Health

**ABSENT:** Pam Oldham, Medical Provider/Registered Dietician  
Laura Seyfer, At-Large, Co-Chair  
RaeAnn Gordon, ISU Extension

**OTHERS** Stephanie Schrader, Community Well Being Liaison

**PRESENT:**

**STAFF:** Mike Tertinger, Linn County Planning and Development, Staff  
Jessie Black, Recording Secretary  
Jake Kundert , IVRCD

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Thoms, seconded by Mehaffey and carried, all members present voting yes, to approve the January 24, 2019 LCFSC minutes as submitted.

**Monthly Budget Report**

Tertinger said current remaining account balance is at \$3,944.15.

**Introductions**

Stolba asked that all members introduce themselves, share what company they are affiliated with and a brief explanation of how they came to be so passionate about food systems. Members present shared their stories.

Stolba and Tertinger updated new members, Guardado and Fiester, on what the Food Systems Council has recently been working on. Tertinger also shared information about how FSC began.

### **FSC Grant Program Update**

Stolba and Tertinger announced that both budget proposals presented to the Board of Supervisors by Beck were turned down; one in the amount of \$50,000 for a self-funded mini-grant program and the other in the amount of \$10,000 for a regional food assessment to be done by ISU Extension. Tertinger shared some feedback from Supervisor Stacey Walker. In summary, Walker suggested the FSC regularly report successes and demonstrate value within the community. Doing so will build more credibility for FSC, thus improving chances of budget proposal approval in the future.

Several of the council members discussed other funding options.

### **Learning Sessions 3-Month Recap (August Stolba)**

Stolba shared a poem he wrote about passion within our food systems.

#### **What have we learned so far?**

Stolba summarized what each of the guest speakers' main points were. He asked the council members to share what they found to be most impactful in order to prioritize a work plan. Stolba started by mentioning the food assessment, explaining that he felt it was top priority because it would help to identify the biggest issues within the local food system, thus helping FSC to create a plan of action.

#### **Open Discussion**

Mehaffey wondered if FSC could roll over account balance from one fiscal year to the next to pay for food assessment. Estimated cost is \$7 – 10k. A few of the council members discussed and agreed it would be a good idea. Schrader and Mehaffey believe collaborating with other local food system-related organizations would greatly benefit the community.

Thoms motioned, Mehaffey seconded, to offer the city of Cedar Rapids a standing membership on the Food Systems Council.

Several members of the council discussed possible options for additional FSC memberships; most agreed that any other city within Linn County could join as an at-large member.

Some council members mentioned people they would like to invite to talk with FSC as a guest speaker: Richards suggested Julie from Olivet Mission and Johnson suggested a Farm Service Agency representative.

Stolba recommended each member of the council check out USDA website. He asked that members report what they found interesting via email.

Several members of the council discussed potential funding options.

Tertinger asked if any council members would be willing to take the lead by looking further into the Food Assessment done by ISU Extension, coordinating conversations with the Board of Supervisors to provide updates on our successes, coordinating collaboration with other organizations, etc. Mehaffey, Schrader and Stolba all agreed to help. Stolba suggested meeting with Schrader and Mehaffey more regularly, as a subcommittee, to delegate and discuss tasks.

Guardado wondered if any members of FSC were part of the Celebration of Ag group. She informed the council of the upcoming Celebration of Ag event at the U.S. Cellular Center in Cedar Rapids on March 18th. Guardado plans to attend. Tertinger offered to send any member that would like to go. Mehaffey expressed interest in attending. Stutler motioned, Thoms seconded, to allocate \$40 of FSC's budget toward sending Mehaffey to event.

The group agreed to allocate enough money (\$160) to send four people to the event, including Mehaffey. Stutler motioned, Thoms seconded. All in favor voting aye.

Tertinger asked the council to list a few of the critical issues that have stuck out after listening to each guest speaker over the past few months. Mehaffey mentioned access to land for beginning farmers. Schrader said the need for better education about food waste, climate change, eating locally, etc.

Tertinger informed the group that RJ Carson would be a guest speaker at the March meeting. Stolba announced David Tominsky from Iowa Startup Accelerator, and Chad Treloar from Urban Greens would be guest speakers at April's meeting. Tertinger mentioned possibly trying to get Rob Hogg as a guest speaker; Johnson goes to church with him, so she will reach out. Stolba plans to bring in a few students from his Issues in Agriculture class to a future meeting.

Dewald announced that Johnson County would be hosting their annual public forum on March 9<sup>th</sup>. She handed out a flyer with more information to each council member.

Mehaffey announced that Hunger Summit breakout applications are now available. She also informed the council members that there is a group of people coming together to work on black maternal health; Black Mama's Matter Alliance. There is a story gathering event on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m at Iowa River Landing. Event will focus primarily on the testimonials of women during childbirth.

**Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned at 10:43 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

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Jessie Black, Recording Secretary

August Stolba, Co-Chair