

MINUTES
LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL
Thursday, May 23, 2024

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was called to order at 12:04 PM at the Harris Linn County Public Health Building, 1020 6th St SE, Cedar Rapids, IA in the 2nd floor conference room 234.

PRESENT: Emmaly Renshaw-Feed Iowa First
Kim Guardado-HACAP
Stephanie Schrader-City of Cedar Rapids
Hailee Sandberg- ISU Extension
Kelly Ridenour Giurato- Eat Greater Des Moines
Brittany Hannah- Via Sofia's

ABSENT: Laura Krouse-Abbe Farm
Laura Ondler- Horizons
Emily Qual- Cobble Hill
Matthew McGrane- NewBo City Market
Drew Erickson- Rodale Institute
Jacqueline Montoya- LCPH

OTHERS

PRESENT: None

STAFF: Mike Tertinger, Senior Planner
Amy Speed, Recording Secretary
Ben Schmidt, Intern

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes were not approved as the council did not reach quorum.

Public Comments:

None at this time.

Budget Update:

Money that was decided on last month has been asked for.

New Business:

FARE Grant Updates:

Round 1 Reports: Did not discuss as quorum was not achieved.

Round 2 Reports: Did not discuss as quorum was not achieved.

Future Project Funding Discussion: Renshaw brought up that the Council receives another \$4,000 in July. What project do you want to do next? Speed went through the suggestions made on the wall a few meetings ago and Sandberg wanted to focus on the Food Systems Council Coordinator position. She wanted to know if that could be a split with the city of Cedar Rapids to have a dual-funded position. Schrader said it is tricky to combine the two. There is a local food promotion program with the USDA that would make funds available for a position. Guardado agrees with trying to get someone in that position. Tertinger stated there has been pushback and that this idea has been floating around for a few years. Guardado mentioned using the \$4,000 to hire a grant writer to get funding for a coordinator. Renshaw said that one year is not sustainable and that a 3-year commitment is needed. Tertinger is not sure if the County has a grant writer but will check into that. Hannah brought up that food systems are so important, especially with what is happening with the Hy-Vee that is closing. Ridenour Giurato explained how Eat Greater Des Moines was funded and Guardado explained how HACAP works with the food pantries in picking up things from local grocery stores, etc. More discussion was had about making food more accessible in the food desert once Hy-Vee closes. The Council also recommended having the Food Symposium again but moving it to January/February.

Old Business:

Restaurant/Farmer Meeting @ Cobble Hill Update: This has been moved to Monday July 15th from 2-4 at Cobble Hill. Sandberg discussed how a spreadsheet was created and asked members to add 5 potential invites to Qual's email. Would like to have 15 restaurants and 15 farmers represented but could do up to 30 of each. Will need a couple of presenters (Laura Krouse was mentioned). Tertinger stated Britt Nielson & Joi Alexander from LC Communications will help with social media. Sandberg also asked about parking waivers/stipends. Schrader mentioned that Park CR can hood off spots for a fee or perhaps they could get a code for free parking on the app. They would like to have invites ready to go on June 17, 2024.

Tasting at NewBo: The first one will be June 1, 2024 in conjunction with the 2024 Iowa Women's Festival. NewBo does have a chef lined up but a farmer/supplier will still be needed.

Market Support: did not discuss.

Open Discussion: none

Next Meeting: June 27, 2024

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 1:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Speed, Recording Secretary

Approved,

 vice chair

Emmaly Renshaw, Chair