

MINUTES
LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL
Thursday, June 27, 2024

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was called to order at 12:01 PM at the Harris Linn County Public Health Building, 1020 6th St SE, Cedar Rapids, IA in the 2nd floor conference room 234.

PRESENT: Kim Guardado- HACAP
Laura Ondler- Horizons
Jacqueline Montoya-LCPH
Stephanie Schrader-City of Cedar Rapids
Hailee Sandberg- ISU Extension
Emily Qual- At-Large
Kelly Ridenour Giurato- Eat Greater Des Moines
Matthew McGrane-NewBo City Market
Drew Erickson- Rodale Institute

ABSENT: Laura Krouse-Abbe Farm
Emmaly Renshaw- Feed Iowa First
Hailee Sandberg- ISU Extension
Aaron Brewer- Prairie Woods
Brittany Hannah- At-Large

OTHERS Kristy- AmeriCorps
PRESENT: Molly Higgins- City of Cedar Rapids Planning Intern
Tristan Corcoran- City of Cedar Rapids Planning Intern
Joshua Pate- Citizen

STAFF: Mike Tertinger, Senior Planner
Amy Speed, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Ridenour Giurato, seconded by Schrader, to approve the April 25, 2024 minutes. All members present voted yes.

Motion by Ondler, seconded by McGrane, to approve the May 23, 2024 minutes. All members present voted yes.

Public Comments:

None at this time.

Budget Update:

The new budget as of July 1, 2024 will be \$4,000.00 The transfer of the remaining funds totaling \$4,905 have not yet been approved and will know more this fall.

New Business:

Farmer/Chef Connection Event at Cobble Hill (Update): Qual gave the update and that they are ready to release. Britt Nielsen from Linn County Communications did the landing page on the website for linncountyiowa.gov. This event will be held on July 15 from 2-4 PM. There is a link on the landing page to register. Qual is encouraging all FSC members to be present if possible. Flyers and press releases should be ready to go by July 2nd. Tertinger is going to invite council members through the Outlook calendar. Ridenour Giurato to contact the Economic Alliance group to see about a mailing list or if they will mail out for the Council. Registration table to be manned by Guardado, Qual, Schrader (Sandberg and Brewer on committee but not at meeting)

Round 1 Final Reports: Both to be tabled for more information.

Olivet Mission: The Council is looking for more numbers and data.

Fairfax Library: The Council is looking for more numbers and data.

Sarah Blais to follow up with both.

Round 2 Midterm Reports:

Rodale: Everything seems to be on track.

Full Bowl: Unable to secure a bigger space. Company then moved into NewBo. Blais to discuss the change from the original plan.

Aroma: Everything seems to be on track.

Marion Cares: Everything seems to be on track.

GROW: Everything seems to be on track.

Local Harvest: Need to look at why they think they won't be done.

United We March Forward: Everything seems to be on track.

Horizons: Blais to get an update.

Round 2 Final Reports:

Matthew 25 w/ additional questions: Numbers provided were an increase in sales of \$168,035.00 for a 22% increase. Foot traffic was 11,131. Snap was 4% of the sales totaling \$5,916.00. They did respond to ask.

Area Substance Abuse Council: Goals were to lower the cost of supplies for the agency. They asked to purchase 4 fridges and get them installed but only 2 were purchased. Council is asking for how much food or cubic ft of space do they have now, poundage, any more data in general. Blais to contact.

Marion Public Library Foundation: They purchased a freezer for \$1,000.00. Had 1,375 pounds of food distributed. Reached 5,001 teens aged 11-18 and even opened up distribution to 120 adults. They did respond to ask.

Black Earth Gardens, LLC: Tunnels & Tractor project. They did state that they can grow an extra 2 months and they are growing ahead of schedule but didn't use any actual numbers. Blais to contact.

Motion by Montoya, seconded by Schrader, to approve the Round 2 Final Reports of ONLY Matthew 25 and Marion Public Library Foundation. All members present voted yes.

Round 2 Funding Change Request:

Southeast Linn Community Center: Requested to use funding to purchase additional things for the center such as tools, a commercial scale, bins, dividers, carts, etc for a total of \$3,390.00.

Motion by Ridenour Giurato seconded by Qual, to approve the funding change request for Southeast Linn Community Center. All members present voted yes.

Iowa Food Systems Policy: Guardado spoke about the food banks and Iowa Food Systems Council. She asked if anyone was involved in this and Ridenour Giurato said she was. Guardado wanted to know if the Linn County Food Systems Council should have a formal connection with the State. Guardado asked the Council to take a look at their website to discuss at next meeting.

SILT Circle our Cities Letter of Support: SILT sent a letter asking for approval to have Linn County Food Systems Council putting their support behind it. Ridenour Giurato said that it is in 3 cities: Cedar Rapids, Waterloo and Des Moines. It is basically 10 farms in 10 years using an agricultural easement.

Motion by Montoya, seconded by Erickson, to approve signing the letter for support. All members present voted yes.

Future Project Funding: Tabled for next meeting.

Linn County Food Systems Assessment: Tabled for next meeting.

Old Business:

Tasting at NewBo Update: Scheduled for Saturday, July 20, 2024.

Market Support: Tabled until next meeting.

CMC Market has been FMNP approved and is in the SNAP approval process.

Schedule to start the last week of July. Wrapping up the final confirmation and would ask FSC to share where appropriate.

Request to buy a few scales within the approved budget for communal use.

Open Discussion: None

Next Meeting: July 25, 2024

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 1:32 PM.

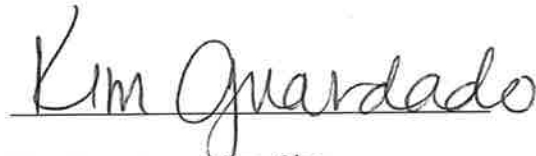
Qual motioned to adjourn and Ondler seconded. All members present voted yes.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Amy Speed", written over a horizontal line.

Amy Speed, Recording Secretary

Approved,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kim Guardado", written over a horizontal line.

Kim Guardado, Vice-Chair