

MINUTES
LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL
Thursday, September 26, 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
Brittany Hannah-At Large
Jacqueline Montoya-LCPH
Stephanie Schrader-City of Cedar Rapids
Hailee Sandberg- ISU Extension
Aaron Brewer- Prairie Woods
Gina Mobley- New Pioneer
Kim Guardado-HACAP
Drew Erickson- Rodale Institute
Kelly Ridenour Giurato-SILT

ABSENT: Laura Krouse-Abbe Farm
Laura Ondler-Horizons
Emily Qual- At Large
Karla Hogan- CRCSD

OTHERS None
PRESENT:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Guardado, seconded by Montoya, to approve the August 22, 2024 minutes. All members present voted yes.

Public Comments:

None at this time.

Budget Update:

\$3,971.00 but there are pending requests for the tents/tables that haven't cleared.

New Business:

Round 1 Final Report Update:

Olivet Mission: A certified letter went out to the church and they did respond by sending back the \$15,000 grant amount. There was discussion with the Council on what they should do with the unspent funds. Ideas brought up included having an assessment on what the public needs really are in the community. Tertinger reminded the group that these are ARPA funds so the parameters still need to be met. Renshaw brought up that other Round 2 projects could possibly need new/more funding. No one in the Council wanted to give the money back. It was decided to contact the recipients who didn't get their full funding.

Motion made by Hannah and seconded by Guardado to send a letter to Round 2 FARE Grant award awardees, who experienced a funding gap of \$5,000 or more, to respond to a request of additional funding that has been made available. The grants (maximum of 3) will be awarded from a minimum of \$5,000 up to a total of \$15,000. The ask must have been part of the original grant application. Applicants must respond no later than October 11, 2024, to be considered for the additional funding.

All members present voted yes.

Tertinger and Renshaw to contact the potential applicants.

Round 2 Midterm Report Updates:

None

Round 2 Final Report Updates:

Green Square Meals- everything was ordered and installed in the kitchen update. They had served 20,340 meals by August 2024. Sandberg asked how that compared to last year. This will be addressed at the next meeting.

ISU Extension & Outreach News:

Sandberg shared that the ISU has implemented a Rising Star Intern Project Proposal. They are asking if the Food Systems Council would like to be a partner in this?

Motion by Guardado and seconded by Montoya to partner with ISU Extension. All members present voted yes.

FARE Grant Video Project – Update:

Renshaw relayed that Iowa Big is going to be doing this collaboration. She asked for Council's help on who the short list is for interviews. Council determined the following: Darius, Mari, Theo, Full Bowl, Green Square Meals, Linn County Food Pantry, Over the Moon and Buffalo Ridge. Guardado mentioned the Council should get video releases from all. There were some interview questions decided as well:

- How did the FARE grant build capacity?
- How long would it take if you didn't receive the funding?
- What's next?
- What would you say to someone else about the program?
- Did you gain new customers?
- What's missing in food systems that would help you?
- How can you meet the needs of the community better?

January 2025 Symposium Update:

Sandberg mentioned that last year it was about networking. This year the focus is more on training and development (certifications, etc). No potential dates have been set yet.

Urban Ag Policy Subcommittee- Update:

The committee has met and discussed food sustainability and the local procurement plan. Some items mentioned were EPA recycling and food waste prevention, meal repack programs (LCPH has funds for repacking) and a meeting with Kirkwood will be set up soon. Regarding policy, they are discussing a backyard garden incentive, water cost share for businesses and private residences to host a farmer and making recommendations for zoning to approve a hoop house package.

Old Business:

Chef/Farmer Event Planning-Discussion:

This will be tabled until the next meeting.

Future Project Funding-Discussion:

No discussion.

SILT Circle our Cities-Update:

This has not been presented yet.

Seasonal Tasting at NewBo City Market- Update:

Next one will be on September 28 from Noon-2:30 with Chef Sayde Alexandresca from ABC Farms.

Market Support- Update:

No discussion.

Iowa Food System Coalition- Discussion:

This will be tabled until next meeting.

Open Discussion:

None at this time.

Next Meeting: October 24, 2024

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Hannah motioned to adjourn and Ridenour Giurato seconded. All members present voted yes.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Speed, Recording Secretary

Approved,



Emmaly Renshaw, Chair