

MINUTES
LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL
Thursday, January 23, 2025

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was called to order at 12:05 PM at the Harris Linn County Public Health Building, 1020 6th St SE, Cedar Rapids, IA in the 3rd floor conference room 303.

PRESENT: Kim Guardado-HACAP
Brittany Rohling- Grand Living-Virtual
Stephanie Schrader-City of Cedar Rapids
Hailee Sandberg- ISU Extension-Virtual
Drew Erickson- Rodale Institute
Gina Mobley- New Pioneer-Virtual
Karla Hogan- CRCSD-Virtual
Kellie Ridenour Giurato-SILT

ABSENT: Emmaly Renshaw- Iowa Valley RC & D
Laura Krouse-Abbe Farm
Emily Qual- At Large
Jacqueline Montoya-LCPH
Laura Ondler-Horizons
Eva Donnely- ISU Extension
Aaron Brewer-Prairie Woods
Sarah Blais – NewBo City Market

OTHERS

PRESENT: None

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

Election of Officers:

Guardado started off the meeting by talking about the elections. Tertinger mentioned that Renshaw would like to step down, if possible. Ridenour Giurato nominated Guardado but due to other commitments, Guardado did not accept the nomination. Tertinger described the positions briefly. Speed offered to have job descriptions drawn up and sent out to each Council member.

Motion by Guardado to table the election until February, seconded by Rohling. All members present voted yes.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Schrader, seconded by Ridenour Giurato, to approve the November 21, 2024 minutes. All members present voted yes.

Public Comments:

None

Budget Update:

Presented by Tertinger. Balance is now \$7,839.00 with an outstanding invoice of \$500.00 pending to NewBo City Market for food tasting events. Tertinger received an email from Matthew McGrane, Director of Equitable Business Development for NewBo City Market breaking down that \$500 charge. In an email received on Thursday, January 23, 2025. McGrane wrote "Mike, these two events were the local food tasting demonstrations the FSC discussed and approved funding for on April 25, 2024. The FSC determined our objective was to use a local farmer and a local chef to prepare recipes using seasonal, local produce. The demonstrations were organized and hosted by NewBo City Market in our Culinary Kitchen and free for the public to attend as drop-ins. We had one on August 3 and another one on September 28. ABC Acres provided the produce for each event, and our two chefs were Crystal Bounds and Sayde Alexandrescu. Please let me know if you have any other questions. Thanks!".

New Business:

FARE Grant Final Reports:

Children of Promise Mentoring Program Revisions:

Council still had issues with the emergency food assistance and baby formula that wasn't funded being in the final report. Need a new report that doesn't include that.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Ridenour Giurato, to pass the final report once the report is updated. All members present voted yes except Rohling who voted no.

United We March Forward:

UWMF sent in their final report showing receipts of all of the items that were purchased.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Erickson, to approve the final report. All members present voted yes.

Marion Cares:

Tertinger submitted the updated report. \$4,000.00 was spent between November and December on totes, crockpots and apparel with logos. Council did not approve the purchase of apparel as it was not on their original request. This will be tabled until February's meeting to be able to reach back out to Marion Cares.

Local Harvest LLC (will not report until Aug 25):

No discussion.

FARE Grant Video Project Updates/Presentation (Iowa Big):

All footage and interviews are complete except for Over the Moon.

2025 Local Food Symposium Discussion:

Save the Date- Moving to March.

Speakers: Field to Family, Food Hub, New Pioneer, Grant writing with Peggy (ISU)

Training: FMNP Certification, SNAP Certification

Discussion was held on the date. It seemed like March 28, 2025, was going to work. Sandberg to check with location availability. The committee has decided on box lunches for the event. Tertinger asked for the number of participants for save the date. They are estimating around 60.

2025 Ideas:

Guardado directed the Council to establish their own capacity of what they are able and willing to take on. It was mentioned to refer back to the Sticky Wall project that they did in January 25, 2024. Speed to send out an email to Council with what the breakdown was. Erickson wants to host a Council meeting at the Farm in mid-summer and also a vegetable farm specific meeting for Council to bring immigrant farmers. Tentative dates are August 28, 2025 and September 25, 2025. Ridenour Giurato mentioned she is holding a Resource Fair on June 28, 2025, in conjunction with Freedom Fest at the VA Building.

Erickson and Sandberg left at this time.

Old Business:

Urban Ag Policy Committee Update:

The committee knows what they are going to look at pertaining to food rescue. The City of Cedar Rapids is also working on some changes. Guardado to get with Aron Brecht, HACAP's Food Donor Relationship Manager to contact Rohling about Montoya's grant with the County on this.

Chef/Farmer Event Committee Updates:

No updates.

SILT Circle our Cities Update:

Ridenour Giurato announced that they are doing micro-grants for farmers for the next 5 years. Each year, they have a \$6,000.00 budget. Applicants can receive up to \$2,000.00 per person per year.

Open Discussion:

Guardado discussed the Iowa Food Bank Association and how Choose Iowa (items produced and processed in Iowa) also is being funded. She reminded people to talk to legislators if they have the opportunity to. Ridenour Giurato suggested to send them a letter from the Council. Guardado suggested bringing a letter to Council to sign. Schrader thought a blanket letter would be good to have on hand for the support of food advocacy as long as it aligns with the mission of the Council.

Next Meeting:

February 27, 2025 at New Pioneer.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 1:28 PM.

Council was not at quorum at this time.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Speed, Recording Secretary

Approved,



Kim Guardado, Vice-Chair