

MINUTES
LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL
Thursday, February 27th, 2020

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. in conference room 3A/3B at the Jean Oxley Public Service Center, 935 2nd St. SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

CALL TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT Kim Guardado, HACAP
:
Emma Johnson, Grower/Producer
Evan Langston, Cottage Grove Place
Carter Oswood, Feed Iowa First
Lynn Abbott, Linn County Public Health
Chris Thoms, At-Large
Pam Oldham, Medical Provider/Registered Dietician

ABSENT: Sofia Mehaffey, Secretary, Horizons
Laura Seyfer, Co-Chair, Iowa BIG
August Stolba, Feed Iowa First, Co-Chair
RaeAnn Gordon, ISU Extension
Jake Kundert , IVRCD
Stephanie Schrader, Community Well Being Liaison

OTHERS

PRESENT Scott Koepke, Indian Creek Nature Center

:

STAFF: Mike Tertinger, Linn County Planning and Development, Staff
Ryan Sampica, Recording Secretary
Les Beck, Director Linn County Planning and Development

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Thoms, seconded by Guardado and carried to approve the January 23, 2020 LCFSC minutes as submitted. All members present voting Aye.

Public Comment

None

Staff Announcements

NOTE: Since Stolba, Seyfer and Mehaffey were all absent for this meeting Tertinger stepped in as Interim Chair for this meeting only.

Schrader asked to be given an update on Seyfer' update to the BOS earlier this month. Guardado said that she reviewed with them what the FSC has been talking about the last few months and the progress that has been made. Tertinger said that they asked some good questions but it would be nice if they had a little more enthusiasm and excitement for this board.

Guardado spoke of her and HACAP taking up the charge to work with the State house to have no food tax on food banks. She stated that they found that \$186,000 was paid on tax by food banks and that amount of money could have funded 1 million meals.

Koepke said that a pesticide drift reporting bill made it out of subcommittee on funnel week. This bill will make it easier to report drifting or possible drifting.

Johnson stated that she is now on the board for Double-Up Bucks and they are looking for some business partnerships or matching funds from companies in the area. The program has been so successful they need to look for additional funds. Langston asked if she could review the program details and she gave a quick overview of how the program works. Johnson said that she will get more information and more specific information about the program and e-mail it out to everyone.

Thoms spoke about a program that Cedar Rapids started last year where they what's called a REC truck that showed up at Green Square Park to hand out meals to kids under the age of 18. It was so successful that this year that are going to 9 different parks throughout the area. Thoms also stated that Angie Cole is the contact with the City on this.

Langston has met with Adam Zimmerman with the Cedar Rapids School District about Career Tech Ed for middle school students. He spoke about and invited anyone who wanted to attend to a meeting of the Family Consumer Sciences in the early part of March. He spoke about his hope to open up some Federal funds for Career Tech Ed to middle schools as the State of Iowa is already allocating a good portion of money towards this cause. Tertinger asked if there is something that the Board of Supervisors or the FSC could do to help, perhaps by signing a letter of approval. Langston answered yes and that he is still trying to connect the dots but will get back with everyone on what he finds out.

Abbott talked about the Food Rescue Summit that Public Health is spear heading. The idea of this Summit is to do a soft launch of their new app, Chow Bank. The date of the Summit is June 2nd at the Percy Harris Building.

Oswood had no new business but did say that they are very interested in the Dows Project and are looking at how they can submit proposals for the project and dreaming/thinking out of the box.

Koepke talked about a seminar he went too where they talked about “divisive tones” and how to connect with people that may not believe or agree with you on certain topics. He said it would be good to remember as we go through the topics on this board.

Beck gave an update regarding the Dows Farm project. He said that they had an electronic conference and people showed up to, which he was very encouraged about and there is some excitement around the idea of this project. He has sent out RFP’s and hopes to hear back and see the ideas that are out there. The dates to submit are Feb 5-March 18.

Monthly Budget Report

No news, everything is the same as the month before.

New Business

None

FY 2020 Project Plan Updates

a.) FSC Website

Langston asked who had submitted their bio info for the 2nd round per the request from Britt to standardize the bio’s online. For those that have not, they are going to work on getting that done before the next FSC meeting. Abbott asked if they are still looking for headshots and Tertinger responded that he believed they were. Tertinger suggested that Oswood, Abbott and Seyfer sit down with He, Brit and Ande to get the website finished.

b.) Come to the Table Summit

Koepke said that last week the group met and discussed having “Come to the Table” in 2021 because of all that is involved in making this happen. He mentioned that they discussed getting an event planner to help out and wanted some input on writing a grant for it. There are a lot of questions and details to iron out which having it in 2021 will help them do that without feeling like they are rushed. Tertinger spoke on how the Historic Preservation Committee does their grant writing and mentioned that he would envision it would follow the same or very similar process. Johnson mentioned that it might be more beneficial for this to start small and then build on it over time. Koepke agreed with that and appreciated the idea. Langston and Abbott said that they didn’t get the invite just an FYI and then Abbott suggested that they have the summit at the Public Health’s Food Rescue Summit. Koepke said he would talk it over with Mehaffey and bring that to the next 30/30 meeting they have in March.

c.) Food System Assessment

Tertinger said as a review that 3 surveys were created & sent out to different lists. Hard copies have been made and are available if anyone needs one or wants one and Nikki is doing weekly check-ups and week push-outs if they are not getting a high response. The community meeting is set up for April 6th from 6-8 PM at the Red Cedar Lodge. This is an invite only meeting that

they are hoping to have 30-50 people show up for. Langston asked if the board members are supposed to tap into their personal networks for this meeting. Tertinger stated that if there are people in those networks that would fit this meeting then absolutely.

d.) Ag Lender Conversation with FSC

There was a scheduling conflict to bring the Ag Lenders so we are going to try for next month.

e.) Iowa Association of Food Policy Councils

Tertinger said that nothing has happened as of yet and it might be a struggle to get something going because as best as he could tell there are only 4 counties that have a Food Systems Council. There is a working group that Tertinger thought they might be able to associate with. Thoms said that having a regional collaboration with Dubuque and Johnson County would still be beneficial and Tertinger agreed and said that regardless of what happens that collaboration with Dubuque and Johnson County will happen.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 10:34 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

Ryan Sampica, Recording Secretary

Mike Tertinger, Interim Chair