

**MINUTES**  
**LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL**  
**Thursday, June 25th, 2020**

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was called to order at 9:03 A.M. via GoToMeeting.

Special Statement: As a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held electronically. All county buildings have been closed to the public until further notice.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Laura Seyfer, At-Large, Co-Chair  
August Stolba, Feed Iowa First, Co-Chair  
Sofia Mehaffey, Horizons  
Lynne Abbott, Linn County Public Health  
Stephanie Schrader, Community Well Being Liaison  
Kim Guardado, HACAP  
Theresa Lewis, Four Oaks

**ABSENT:** RaeAnn Gordon, ISU Extension  
Emma Johnson, Grower/Producer  
Evan Langston, Cottage Grove Place  
Jake Kundert , IVRCD  
Carter Oswood, Restaurant/Institution  
Chris Thoms, At-Large

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** Ilsa DeWald, Johnson County Food Policy Coordinator

**STAFF:** Les Beck, Director Linn County Planning and Development  
Mike Tertinger, Linn County Planning and Development, Staff  
Jessie Black, Recording Secretary

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Seyfer, seconded by Mehaffey and carried, all members present voting yes, to approve the May 28th, 2020 LCFSC minutes as submitted.

**New Member Introduction**

Theresa Lewis introduced herself as a (potential) new member of Food Systems Council.

Rachael Schaefer introduced herself as the Planning & Development intern.

### **Member Updates**

Guardado gave the council an update on HACAP operations during the pandemic: she said there has been a decrease in attendance at large mobiles. HACAP will continue to provide mobiles until end of June, but will have to move mobile out of ice arena next week. She said they've been provided an opportunity for a grant through Feeding America that specifically addresses racial disparities and food insecurity. Grant is due on Tuesday. Objective is to provide more culturally appropriate foods to make available at food pantries. The project would begin August 1<sup>st</sup>, and go through April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Mehaffey briefly updated the council on Horizons most recent operations; they are still providing frozen meals to all homebound clients and limiting contact as much as possible. She said they are still doing well checks via phone call. They are also providing three summer meal pick-up sites.

Seyfer informed the council of a conversation that took place regarding the possibility of obtaining money made available through COVID relief funds. Representative Isenhardt sent an email informing the council of funds and suggested the council asks for \$100k to split between Johnson, Linn and Dubuque counties. Seyfer said the money would be used to incentivize institutional sales to local growers. Schrader asked if Tertinger could forward email to all members of the group. Schrader wondered if feedback from New Venture Advisors would be helpful in determining how to spend funds.

Tertinger said he and NVA are discussing logistics for their virtual presentation to the Board of Supervisors on July 20. NVA is trying to determine how to spend the funds that were originally designated for flights, hotels, etc. that will no longer be used. Tertinger mentioned the possibility of an ArcGIS Story Map, however NVA does not have all of the GIS capabilities needed to do so. Tertinger said NVA has asked if the Linn County GIS Department could assist.

Guardado suggested putting NVA in touch with Jim Hodina, who may be able to provide additional materials that could help NVA create a story map. Tertinger will let NVA know to reach out.

### **FY2020 Project Plan Updates**

**Come to the Table:** Mehaffey will send an email out to the subcommittee to see if the summit could be held electronically, rather than in-person.

Stolba suggested putting another 30-30 together after NVA results.

**Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned at 9:31 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

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Jessie Black, Recording Secretary

, Co-Chair