

MINUTES
LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL
Thursday, July 22, 2021

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was called to order at 12:40 PM at Etzel Sugar Grove Farm at 3706 St Peters Rd, Marion, IA 52302.

PRESENT: Laura Seyfer, At-Large
Sandy Rosenberger, ISU Extension
Lynne Abbott, LCPH
Stephanie Schrader, City of CR Community Services Coordinator
Scott Koepke, Indian Creek Nature Center, Farm Manager
August Stolba, Prairiewood Franciscan Spirituality Center
Kim Guardado, HACAP
Mary Griffin, Horizons
Carter Oswood, Feed Iowa First
Jason Snell, Sunrise Movement Community Action Fund

ABSENT: Chris Thoms, At-Large
Charlie Nichols, Director Linn County Planning and Development

OTHERS

PRESENT: Tamara Marcus, LC BOS Sustainability Manager
Ilsa Dewald, City of Iowa City
Samuel & Phoebe Charles, Rodina Restaurant

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

Roll Call

Introduction by John Myers, Indian Creek Nature Center Executive Director

Myers spoke on the mission of the Indian Creek Nature Center and gave a brief overview of the farm and the different areas of it and the vision they have for this farm

Presentation by Drew Erickson, Farm Manager for Rodale Institute Midwest Organic Center

Erickson introduced himself and spoke to the mission and vision for the Rodale Institute and also gave a brief background of the Institute itself.

Introduction of new FSC Members

The entire group went around and introduced themselves and who they are affiliated with. We had three new members present: Samuel and Phoebe Charles with Rodina (potential new members) and Mary Griffin with Horizons who will be taking over for Sofia DeMartino.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Stolba seconded by Guardado and carried, all members present voting yes, to approve the June 24, 2021 LCFSC minutes as submitted.

Vote for New FSC Vice-Chairperson

Stolba volunteered to be Vice-Chairperson and all of the Council voted aye

Monthly Budget Report

Tertinger said the budget was reset to \$4000 as of July 1. The only expenditures as of now are for the lunch we are having at the farm so the Council will be left with around \$3700. Tertinger brought up the CSA program to review with the new people. Tertinger spoke through the program and how it worked for this year.

Guardado reviewed where the funds were allocated to. Guardado said that all of the money has been spent and HACAP has been working with Knights Farm and distributing produce.

Schrader spoke to the intent of the City of Cedar Rapids having interest in doing a CSA program as well and there was general discussion of CSA programs, how to grow the program etc.

Sustainable Agriculture Resolution update

Oswood spoke about meeting with all of the Supervisors and that he wants to make a committee to push forward the Food Coordinator position. Stolba asked how that would work and Oswood said that we keep meeting with Supervisors on a regular basis to keep this Council in the forefront of their minds.

Marcus spoke to the draft of resolution and that she wanted to fill it out more fully and completely first. Oswood then review the Resolution briefly and asked everyone to review & bring their ideas to the next Food Systems Council meeting. Oswood said he would like to have something officially drawn up in September to present. Marcus said that is definitely doable.

2021 Project Plan Updates

Stolba spoke to the Cedar Rapids "Farmers Market" and the he had a meeting and now needing to find someone new to speak with @ the Economic Alliance. Oswood spoke to the idea behind this group and where they would like to go from here regarding this topic

Open discussion

Dewald mentioned the first annual Food Policy Council meeting, hosted by Johns Hopkins in Kansas. The dates are September 20-21. Dewald is trying to get a good contingent to go from the State of Iowa

Schrader talked about the 2nd phase of the Climate Change action from the City. From their research the top priority is Food Security and they are moving forward from there.

Sugar Grove Farm Tour with Scott Koepke, Farm Manager

Koepke took the Council around the farm and showed the Council the different areas of the farm and what he is currently doing with it and where he hopes to take it in the future. He showed the Council the bee hives, the farm ground, the different techniques that he utilizes to grow his crops and finally he showed the Council the historical chicken coop.

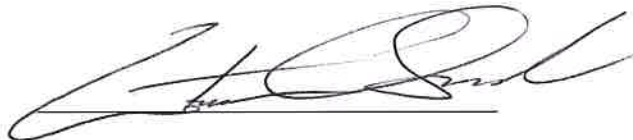
Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Ryan Sampica, Recording Secretary

Approved,



Carter Oswood, Chair