The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was called to order at 9:04 A.M. via GoToMeeting.

Special Statement: As a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held electronically. All county buildings are open to the public by appointment only until further notice.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:**
- August Stolba, Co-Chair
- Stephanie Schrader, Community Well Being Liaison
- Theresa Lewis, The Arc of East Central Iowa
- Chris Thoms, At-Large
- RaeAnn Gordon, ISU Extension
- Carter Oswood, Restaurant/Institution

**ABSENT:**
- Emma Johnson, Grower/Producer
- Laura Seyfer, At-Large, Co-Chair
- Sofia Mehaffey, Horizons
- Evan Langston, Cottage Grove Place
- Kim Guardado, HACAP
- Lynne Abbott, Linn County Public Health

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:**
- Ilse DeWald, Johnson County Food Policy Coordinator
- Scott Koeppke, Indian Creek Nature Center
- Tamara Marcus, Linn County Sustainability Coordinator
- Nikki Seibert, New Venture Advisors

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Thoms second by Lewis, all members present voting aye, to approve the July 23rd, 2020 LCFSC minutes as submitted.
Budget

Tertinger said there was $4000 in the council’s operating account.

Member Updates

Tamara Marcus introduced herself to the council as the new Linn County Sustainability Coordinator.

Food Systems Assessment Update

Nikki Seibert, New Venture Advisors, presented a story map about the Linn County Food System Assessment. Beck asked how the story map would stay up-to-date as work progressed. Seibert said the Linn County GIS Department would be responsible for updating, and added that the council has the option to revise if needed.

Koepke wondered if there were any specific examples of policy recommendations from other counties in the country in the link provided on the story map. Seibert said the APA Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning was very helpful and she would send links with more information to everyone in the council.

Seibert said the story map will be presented at the American Planners Association Midwestern Conference. She also said this report could provide potential ideas for FSC action items. She suggested the council develop an action plan that have clear assignments as far as who’s driving them forward, along with a timeline and parallel funding opportunities.

2020 Project Plan Updates

Dewald said the IDOLS grant came out. They received an overwhelming amount of applications. Recipients will be announced soon. She said funds have to be spent by the end of December. Stolba wondered where he can find the names of grant recipients. Dewald suggested looking on the IDOLS website, but was unsure.

Kundert informed the council that Jason Grimm has been working on a website called Fresh Connect. The idea is to create an online platform where producers can post products that are available to sell to schools or other institutions that received funding through the CARES Act.

Dewald said Jefferson County is also trying to put together a local food systems coordinator position.

Discussion on Local Food Systems Coordinator

Stolba put together a draft job description for the food systems coordinator and sent it out to the council. Gordon wondered if the position would be full-time. Stolba said yes. Gordon asked if Tamara Marcus would be collaborating with the local food systems coordinator. Nichols said Marcus is currently focused on doing a greenhouse gas inventory, which will take up a lot of time. There is interest and overlap between the two positions and potential for collaboration in the future. Gordon wondered if timing is right to propose this position to the Board of Supervisors. Beck said yes, it would need to be presented to BOS within the next month or two to get into the budget for FY22. If proposal gets approved, the council could begin the recruitment process to have someone lined up by July 1, 2021.

Some members of the group had a conversation regarding the possibility of creating the position to serve both the county and City of Cedar Rapids. Marcus suggested reaching out to Eric Holthaus to discuss.
Tertinger suggested the proposed position be presented to BOS sometime in October, as part of the update on the assessment project. Beck recommended consulting the Budget and Finance Department and Human Resources prior to BOS presentation to gather more information on salary and benefits package.

Tertinger asked that the job description, qualifications, benefits and salary range be defined by October 22. Stolba and Gordon will work on putting this together.

**Website Update**

Oswood talked with Britt Nielsen in Communications. The tentative plan is to start with a one-pager about Food Systems Council basics. Oswood will schedule a meeting with other members of website subcommittee to discuss how to go forward.

**Open Agenda**

Koepke appreciated Seibert’s recommendation of having a “grower-buyer meet up”, consistent with the intentions of Come to the Table. Koepke mentioned that he has free access to the venue at Indian Creek Nature Center, for any future FSC events.

Koepke also informed the council that he will be teaching a local foods class at Kirkwood on the last Friday of every month until January, from 6-7:30pm.

**Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned at 10:06 AM

Respectfully submitted, Approved,

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Jessie Black, Recording Secretary    , Co-Chair