

MINUTES
LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL
Thursday, January 28th, 2021

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was called to order at 9:02 A.M. via GoToMeeting.

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

CALL TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Laura Seyfer, Iowa BIG, Co-Chair
Sofia Mehaffey, Horizons
Theresa Lewis, The ARC of East Central Iowa
August Stolba, Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center
Chris Thoms, At-Large
Carter Oswood, Feed Iowa First, Co-Chair
Lynn Abbott, Linn County Public Health
Stephanie Schrader, City of Cedar Rapids
Scott Koepke, Indian Creek Nature Center

ABSENT: RaeAnn Gordon, Iowa State
Kim Guardado, HACAP
Ellie Evans, City of Cedar Rapids
Tiffani Green

OTHERS

PRESENT: Ilsa Dewald, City of Iowa City
Tamara Marcus, Linn County BOS

STAFF: Charlie Nichols, Zoning Division Manager
Mike Tertinger, Linn County Planning and Development, Staff
Ryan Sampica, Recording Secretary
Jake Kundert , IVRCD

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Stolba at 9:02 AM

Introductions/Welcome New Members

This will be postponed until February as the new members weren't able to make it. Scott Koepke was officially announced as a full-fledged member

Election of Officers

Seyfer offered to remain on the council as co-chair. Oswood offered to be another co-chair. The nominations were approved by unanimous consent.

Mehaffey offered to be the Secretary for the year. The nomination was approved by unanimous consent.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Thoms, seconded by Stolba and carried, all members present voting yes, to approve the November 19, 2020 LCFSC minutes as submitted.

Monthly Budget Report

Tertinger said there is \$4000 left in the budget for the Council. Tertinger asked Nichols if he heard anything from the Board of Supervisors on the budget changing. Nichols said that to his knowledge the budget will stay the same for the Council.

FSC Mission Statement, Values & Goals Updates (Discuss & Decide)

Tertinger reviews & sets up 2021 year goals for the council and combines all iterations to give a roadmap forward.

Thoms asks what the regenerative means.

Koepke explained the term and what it means when it comes to farming.

Mehaffey spoke about having updated information regarding Food Systems Maps (i.e. food deserts etc.) which will help the Council to put better leadership in place to help with those issues.

Stolba said that from all of the discussion so far it sounds like Education is a recurring theme for the council for this year.

Oswood agreed and also said policy as well. Marcus said that instead of having a unidirectional type of education there should be an exchange of ideas when it comes to education. Instead of coming from one source it should be like a collaboration.

Schrader agreed with Marcus and that we are collaborators.

Oswood said that he believes that Food Security should be elevated to a value for the Council.

2021 Project Plan

Oswood talked about the current Farmers Market and the hope that it would actually become a farmers market instead of a retail location for burritos and crafts only. Oswood also spoke about the possibility of starting an alternative farmers market that focused on produce.

Seyfer mentioned that with her work to Economic Alliance the goal for the Cedar Rapids Farmers Market is to get people downtown, economic growth for downtown.

Koepke talked about his Come-to-the-table idea and recruitment of new members that are sorely needed on the Council. He mentioned Hy-Vee grocery executive, row cropper, AG Lender, someone from Ingredion. Regarding the Come-to-the-table idea Koepke talked about if it could happen as things are now with COVID and virtual meetings.

Dewald, Gordon, Koepke and Stolba will take the lead on the Come-to-the-table idea to see if they can make it work this year, virtually.

Thoms asked if the Mini-Grant idea is still on the table or does it need to be pushed back or forgotten?

Tertinger said that it hasn't been forgotten and needs to be just under the surface for now. With financial uncertainty this year it would be hard to ask for the funds from the BOS but could possibly be revisited in 2022.

There was a general discussion regarding partnering with other Food Systems Council's and groups around the State.

Marcus, Tertinger and Nichols said they would all speak to the newest Supervisor, Louis Zumbach, about coming to the Council meetings.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 10:32 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

Ryan Sampica, Recording Secretary

Carter Oswood, Co-Chair