

MINUTES
LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL
Thursday, April 22nd, 2021

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was called to order at 9:05 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: Kim Guardado, HACAP
RaeAnn Gordon, ISU Extension
Theresa Lewis, At-Large
Ellie Evans, At-Large
Chris Thoms, At-Large
Lynne Abbott, LCPH
Stephanie Schrader, City of CR Community Services Coordinator
Scott Koepke, Indian Creek Nature Center, Farm Manager
Carter Oswood, Feed Iowa First (chair)
Jason Snell, Sunrise

ABSENT: Sofia DeMartino, Horizons
August Stolba, Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center
Tiffani Green, At-Large
Jake Kundert, IVRCD
Laura Seyfer, Iowa BIG

OTHERS

PRESENT:

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Thoms, seconded by Oswood and carried, all members present voting yes, to approve the February 25th LCFSC minutes as submitted.

Get to know your FSC members

Jason Snell introduced himself and gave a little background on himself and his passion

The other members of the Council briefly introduced themselves to Snell.

Monthly Budget Report

Tertinger said the remaining account balance as of the calendar year-end is \$3,980.00.

Tertinger then speaks to a switch on how HACAP will be given the money for what was discussed last time regarding the CSA shares and all that. The Supervisors would like the money to be a direct donation instead of using the CSA. Supervisor Zumbach said that with the buying power of HACAP having a direct donation will be better than indirectly through the CSA program.

Guardado spoke to and backed up what Tertinger said and how much the direct donation will be a benefit.

Tertinger asked when HACAP would prefer to receive the donation?

Guardado said May or June will be good.

Oswood asked are all funds going to go to local food purchases?

Guardado said yes to that.

Motion by Thoms, seconded by Koepke and carried, all members present voting yes, to authorize cash payment, direct donation, to HACAP instead of doing the CSA shares

Guardado abstained

Update from ISU Extension

Gordon gave a quick update on happenings at the ISU Extension regarding her position, a new Master Gardener coming on staff and that person joining and being a part of the Council. She also updated the Council on the Extension's work related to COVID and the Derecho and how they are looking to getting things back on track.

Gordon also mentioned that they have the director position open and out for applicants and until that position is filled much of this is a work-in-progress until they get definitive guidance from the new Director.

Presentation from United We March Forward

This was pushed back to the May meeting

2021 Project Plan

Koepke started out by letting everyone know about the Bean Team and some exciting news coming to this area where there are going to be variety trials of growing all different types of beans and possible having and making a market for right here in this area. He asked for some support from the Council.

Tertinger asked if he is looking for a letter of support, or something more from the Council.

Koepke stated that a letter would be great, to start off with.

The different members discussed and updated the Council on their specific projects with the Project Plan and where things stand.

Regarding the Secondary Projects:

Tertinger gave an update on the BOS/Zumbach invited to join the Council

Tertinger gave an update on the Mini Grant Program

Tertinger gave an update on the different budget requests for ideas that the Council has. All ideas were turned down on the first request. However, Tertinger and Nichols aren't going to give up and will keep trying and figuring out new ways to present and request.

Nichols gave an update and said that through the American Recovery Plan from the Federal Government there will be funds made available for projects. While there is no definitive guidelines on how the money needs to be spent this is a possibility to fund some of these ideas.

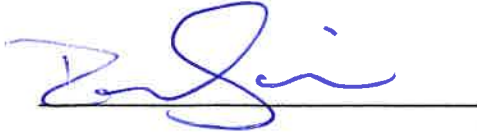
Open Discussion

Schrader talked about 2 opportunities for people coming up: Re-Leaf Cedar Rapids and USCA seeking comment on Food Systems Supply Chains on Agricultural Commodities.

Oswood spoke of a program they have started, Grow Farmers, Equitable Land Access. The basis of this is to give other ethnicities a chance to farm and be growers. They were going to start with 2 families but ended up starting with 4 families.

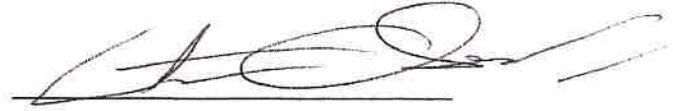
Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 10:29 AM

Respectfully submitted,



Ryan J Sampica, Recording Secretary

Approved,



Carter Oswood, Chair