

MINUTES
LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL
Thursday, April 27, 2023

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was called to order at 12:01pm in conference room 303 at the Harris Linn County Public Health Building, 1020 6th St SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

PRESENT: Laura Seyfer, Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance
August Stolba, Prairiewood Franciscan Spirituality Center
Emmaly Renshaw, Feed Iowa First
Jacqueline Montoya, LCPH
Stephanie Schrader, City of Cedar Rapids Community Services Coordinator
Kim Guardado, HACAP
Hailee Sandberg, ISU Extension

ABSENT: Melissa Wahl, Horizons
Emily Qual, Cobble Hill
Laura Krouse, Abbe Farm
Sarah Blais, NewBo City Market

OTHERS

PRESENT: Tam Marcus
Scott Koepke- via phone

STAFF: Mike Tertinger, Senior Planner
Amy Speed, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Guardado, seconded by Schrader to approve the March 23, 2023, LCFSC minutes. All members present voting yes.

Budget:

Started with \$7000. Balance is now \$4435. Discussion on how to spend before fiscal year-end on the Summit.

FARE Grant Process Recap/Next Steps:

a. Committee Updates:

Renshaw & Schrader-application eligibility- sent out and done 4/12/23- Schrader spoke about updating the verbiage so priority was a keyword for eligibility. If one was awarded winter 2022, applicant is eligible to apply for the difference of what they received in Round 1 award and \$25,000. If an applicant received funds in Round 1, they need to provide a detailed update. Priority goes to applicants with no funding from Round 1. Implementation is ok- can hire professionals but not use funds for wages. Self-sustaining projects- funding requests that incorporate local foods will be given a priority as well. Priority was a key word to put in eligibility.

Sandberg- post survey- no progress. Renshaw to pair up and help to get this out.

Guardado & Seyfer & Montoya- updating questions for the application- Seyfer has application handout- adding more details to be more specific in ask. Renshaw discussed how to sustain the project and keep it going. Stolba asked for a more specific question on how the funds used will be put towards what they are purchasing but the budget also asks that. Renshaw asked to group the narrative and the budget request into one section. Need to make sure a Covid question is added. The group decided to have done by May meeting, recommendations for approval and then input into Good Grants.

After discussion, Seyfer will update her questions and send them to the group to review.

Renshaw suggested the group set a date when applications are open to be submitted. Release July 5, Return August 16 for 2nd round. Review at Sept. 28th meeting and announce awardees by mid-Oct.

Stolba to follow up with Sarah Blais and Emily Qual about outreach and marketing.

Reschedule June meeting – Renshaw to send out about a meeting change.

Stolba & Qual - outreach in other networks, talking points.

Blais- outreach marketing and translating (adding Matthew McGrane to help out)- updating website, who got grants, FAQ's.

Schrader offered suggestion to combine May and June meeting together due to vacations, fairs, other projects. All committees finalized by May/June meeting. Send out to all when most of the project is complete to be reviewed before the meeting. The June 1 meeting will be 2-3 hours long, from 3-5 pm. Cancel meetings on May 25 and June 22.

Come to the Table Summit

a. Committee Updates: Marcus- Steering committee- Sydney Evans is no longer the contact, Marcus will be taking over. Guardado, Sandberg, Koepke, Stolba, Renshaw will be on the steering committee. Koepke spoke about the history of how the Come to the Table Summit started. What is the incentive for system to change? Guardado asked how this will be different from his work with PFI? Koepke thinks they should be invited. Guardado doesn't want to duplicate what PFI is doing. Renshaw posed if this should be Linn County focused? Marcus has a meeting scheduled with the steering committee and wants to be sure everyone is committed to the Summit. Stolba asked if we have enough support to give. Renshaw asked Marcus if she has the capacity to take this on her shoulders. Marcus was appreciative of the ask and said yes she does. Seyfer suggested going outside of Linn County to local farmers in connecting counties.

Stolba suggested reaching out to regional, corridor or Eastern Iowa.

Renshaw said local farmers want to get started. Guardado says that a great panel session, growing with the little guys and not just the bigger producers.

Marcus asked Koepke if the timing is close, will it hurt either? Koepke says it depends. Narrow down the calendar as soon as possible. Consider doing after New Years holiday.

Wanatee Orchard Project Update:

Renshaw has all trees in the cooler and getting rhubarb next. No public space- maybe add a gazebo and picnic tables.? Renshaw will bring a proposal for the next meeting.

FSC Recruitment:

Stolba is trying to find someone to fill his space. Are there banks that want to help? Or ag management companies? Instead of just throwing out names, Stolba encouraged all to make contact. Local business owners? Food trucks?

Open Discussion:

None.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 1:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Speed, Recording Secretary

Approved,



August Stolba, Chair

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