

MINUTES
LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL
Thursday, April 28th, 2022

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was called to order at 12:01 P.M. in conference room 3A/3B at the Jean Oxley Public Service Center, 935 2nd St. SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

PRESENT: August Stolba, Prairiewood Franciscan Spirituality Center
Carter Oswood, Feed Iowa First (phone)
Sandy Rosenberger, ISU Extension
Kim Guardado, HACAP
Laura Seyfer, At-Large
Emmaly Renshaw, Feed Iowa First

ABSENT: Vildana Tinjich, LCPH
Charlie Nichols, P&D Director
Laura Krouse, Abbe Hills Farm
Stephanie Schrader, City of CR Community Services Coordinator
Ilsa Dewald, City of Iowa City

OTHERS

PRESENT: Melissa Wahl, Horizons
Tamara Marcus, LC BOS Sustainability Manager
Amy Hockett, Public Health
Emily Qual, Restaurant Manager
Sarah Blais, NewBo City Market

STAFF: Mike Tertinger, Senior Planner
Desire Irakoze, Planner I
Ryan Sampica, Recording Secretary
Stephanie Lientz, Zoning Division Manager

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Rosenberger to and all members present voting yes, to approve the March 24, 2022 LCFSC minutes as submitted.

Monthly Budget Report

Tertinger said the remaining account balance as of now is \$3,247 with an additional \$250,000 allocated due to the ARPA request approval from the Board of Supervisors.

Introductions

For the new and potentially members in attendance, Stolba reviews the history of the Food Systems Council (FSC), the Mission of the FSC and what this group does.

The Council went around the table to introduce themselves and what has brought them to this Council.

Election of Officers

This was pushed to the May meeting because of having so many new people and a few people gone.

Land Access, Diversification & Infrastructure Toolkit Discussion

Renshaw share with the Council that there is only one guy around that can do the scale of irrigation they are looking for, Midway Well. If/when they move on this, he will be someone that should be contacted.

With the awarding of ARPA funding the Council decided to put the toolkit on the back burner for now while they get the grant program up and running.

FSC Fare Grant Kickoff

Stolba did a quick review of what the ARPA funds are, how they came about and a brief history of the FARE Grant idea

Hockett asked how we show success for the program.

Stolba said that Council will need to determine that over the next 2 months.

Stolba spoke that based on his meeting the Linn County Finance Department the Council will need to report on a Quarterly basis the activity and any updates relevant to the Grant Program. The Grantee's will need to provide expenses and pass those along to staff to have on file. It is also ok to show \$0 awarded for 3 of the 4 quarters if necessary.

Guardado asked if we are tied to needing to use 1/3 each year?

Stolba said no. We can use it in whatever we decide. His idea was to start small at around \$50,000 for the first year, \$75,000 for the second year and \$125,000 for the third year but it's open for discussion.

Guardado suggested that the Council go big in the first year to get the money allocated and out into the community because a) it is sorely needed and b) to show the Board of Supervisors the need that is out there.

Stolba said that he thought was a good idea too and that he had thought about that as well.

Guardado asked about how important it was to track the in-kind time of the Council members.

Stolba and Tertinger said it based on their discussion with the LC Finance Department it didn't seem necessary, but they would follow up to make sure.

Stolba speaks about the Calendar and how it has now changed from a Fiscal/Financial year type situation to a Calendar year situation.

There was general discussion for how long the grant application window should be open and how often to have it.

There was general discussion on what the expectations for this program are, for the finish of it and for the reporting of it.

There was general discussion on the types of projects that would be allowed through this grant.

Tertinger asks if anyone on the Council has any issues with it being Non-Profit and For-Profit that can apply or should more focus be on Non-Profit. Then general consensus from the Council was that it should include both.

Stolba then set up 4 Sub-Committees:

- 1) Scoring Matrix – Kim, August, Sara and Emily
- 2) Formal App generation
- 3) Reporting & Celebration
- 4) Applicant Support/Outreach – Tam, Sarah, Laura S

The Scoring Matrix group will start and get something together and brought to the May meeting for review and suggestions.

Marcus asked if the Council has the ability to help with the applicants that don't have grant writing ability or haven't written a grant or that has language barriers.

Guardado said that she uses someone from the University of Iowa, Jennifer Vick, for when they write grants, and she is holding a class on grant writing soon.

Blais speaks to the grant cycle and how usually there is a Grant Coordinator or Project Coordinator (same thing). She also said that the person in that position is usually on the Council/Board but doesn't have a vote in this case.

FSC Recruitment

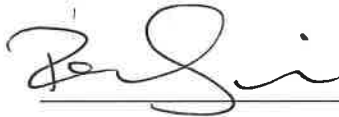
Stolba said that recruitment is going well with the possibility of 4 new members in attendance today. He also mentioned that we can always continue to grow so please continue to talk to people who you think would be a good fit for the Council.

FSC Meeting Time

Stolba brought up the idea of changing the meeting times that Oswood mentioned last time. The general thoughts from the Council were to keep it at the same time and to look into the Council using their budget to supply lunch to whoever shows up.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 1:26 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Ryan Sampica, Recording Secretary

Approved,



August Stolba, Vice-Chair