

DUBUQUE COUNTY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 1, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

HYBRID Meeting:

In-Person: 1225 Seippel Road, Dubuque, Iowa 52001 (Dubuque County's West Campus)

Zoom: recording to come

MEETING MINUTES

Council members present: Rich Henderson, Paul Schultz, Michaela Freiburger, Whitney Sanger, Samantha Kloft, Kathy Hutton, Andy Spaniol, Octavius Evans, Catherine Caitlin, Lynn Sutton

Non-council members present: Candace Eudaley, Danielle Stowell, Lori Scovel (Limestone Bluffs RC&D), Cindy Kohlmann (Salvation Army), Theresa Caldwell (Food Pantry), Ron Axtell (HACAP), Tom Konzen (Labor Harvest), Ray Kruse (ISU Extension)

Council members not present: Gwen Hall-Driscoll, Cindy Hilken, Saralyn Smith-Collingwood, Sunil Malapati

Call to order: 4:01 pm

Approval of minutes:

Rich: motion to approve

Paul: 2nd

Unanimously approved

Public comments:

- Ray Kruse: ISU Extension programming update
 - Preschool programming + home gardener/fruit producer programming is very well attended
 - See ISU extension website or e-news blast for full list of upcoming programs

Community Updates:

- Andy: Little Leaps Academy note has been sent about food pantries, Michaela can follow up with Jake if needed
- Lynn: Has grown 500+ lbs. of produce this year. Fruit trees are finally producing, transitioning to fall crops soon.
- Rich: 1,165 lbs. of produce grown so far, very happy with how the growing season has gone so far
- Whitney: Project Rooted Dinner:
 - Expecting roughly 400 people between children & adults
 - Table facilitators will lead conversation around food & resiliency
 - September is Hunger Action month -- something for all orgs. to consider and promote resources for throughout the month

Council updates:

- Working through the official legalities/processes for adding Ray and/or Brittany as official council members

Contracted Vendor Updates:

- Political candidate/legislation/policy endorsements:
 - Current process: DCFPC formally needs to vote to endorse a specific policy or piece of legislation. If a council member brings forward a motion to approve, council will vote, then this will be forwarded on to the state/regional Food Policy Council Network, with language drafted for social media as well.
- Lincoln School project update:
 - 90% of funding has been secured so far. One more grant is out for funding request and then the program should be ready to move forward in the spring.
- Candace & Danielle will be applying for the Iowa Tourism Grant through Limestone Bluffs RC&D as a major piece of funding for the spring farm-to-table dinner event.
- Compost
 - DMSWA workshops for compost use this spring
 - Two communities are under contract (Cascade & Epworth) with DMSWA for having a compost dropsites for community members to use at home.
 - Communities will be responsible for distribution
 - In-vessel composting at Mt. Saint Frances will be providing tours sometime soon, watch for dates/times for anyone interested.
 - This does require electricity, and solar power is an option.

Sub-committee Updates:

- Because there are new council members, there is a need to realign council members with subcommittees -- council members can email Michaela after the meeting to decide where they fit best.
- Policy: local county/state policy proposals and assessment
 - Kathy
 - Paul
 - Current Policy update:*
 - Goal of one policy review or proposal per month going forward
- Grants
 - Rich
 - Current Grants update:*
 - Funds are still tied up, Michaela has sent a draft contract to use going forward. Hopes to have first rounds of funding distributed by next meeting, but still waiting to hear back.
- Community outreach & engagement
 - Michaela
 - Whitney
 - Current Community outreach & engagement update:*
 - Regional Food System Working Group meets Thursday, Sept. 2, anyone can join.
 - Dubuque Eats Well Coalition: no new meeting date yet, Candace is reviewing all current plans to find overlap which should help determine goals & structure going forward.
 - Question: who were the main organizations involved in DEW? Per Paul:
Green Dubuque, ISU Extension, Sinsinawa Mound, Mercy Hospital, DCFPC, Dubuque Farmers Market, HyVee Dieticians, Four Mounds, Community Foundation, Jason Neises, Chuck Isenhardt, several Motherhouses, Food Bank, League of Women Voters, Healthy Hometowns, Community gardens, DMSWA

- SILT/Watershed update: Ongoing conversation between Eric Schmeckle of Catfish Creek Watershed & SILT to identify potential farms for local foods production
- Johnson County food policy council connection: Candace & Michaela met with them and discussed opportunities to work together
- Food Hub
 - Whitney
- Strategic plan
 - Catherine
 - Paul
 - Current strategic plan update:*
 - Original planning documents from this spring were put on hold when drafting the scope of work for the contracted vendor position.
 - These documents can be used as a starting point to craft a more finalized strategic plan
 - Suggested that we work closely with the city to align with what they city council & Imagine Dubuque goals are

Mission & Goals discussion:

- Catherine asks for clarification as to what this group/body should actually be focused on -- currently there is a lot of focus on projects and discussion around what other organizations are doing.
- Michaela: staying updated by food-related stakeholder groups is to make sure that when DCFPC makes policy recommendations, the group is informed and knows what is actually needed.
- Historically, local government didn't really appear to have a role in food and the food system, so the council was needed to bring policy forward

Rich motion to adjourn

Kathy 2nd

Adjourn: 4:02 pm

Next meeting

October 6, 2021 at 4:00 pm