

DUBUQUE COUNTY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 14, 2022, 4:00 p.m.

HYBRID Meeting:

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

MEETING MINUTES

Council members present: Rich Henderson, Michaela Freiburger, Paul Schultz, Samantha Kloft, Catherine Caitlin, Whitney Sanger, Sunil Malapati, Kathy Hutton

Council members not present: Gwen Hall-Driscoll, Cindy Hilken, Lynn Sutton, Andy Spaniol, Octavius Evan

Non-council members present: Candace Eudaley, Danielle Stowell, Ray Kruse (ISU Extension), Ann McDonough (county supervisor), Harley Pothoff (county supervisor)

Call to order: 4:08 pm

Approval of minutes:

Catherine motion to approve

Kathy: 2nd

Minutes approved

Public comments:

Ray Kruse - MaryBeth Foster has been involved with Resources Unite – they are looking for fresh produce donations for their food pantry

-Michaela suggests that Jason at the Community Foundation may also have a good reach to put the word out to producers

Strategic Plan Overview (Specific feedback on action items noted here. See full Strategic Plan document for full context)

-Whitney Sanger - Intro, purpose, mission

-Catherine Caitlin - Executive summary & planning principles

-Whitney Sanger - Priority 1: Foster a Local Food Economy

-Kathy Hutton - Priority 2: Ensure Healthy Food Access

-Sunil suggests we combine #4 (healthy food swap in schools) under #10 (food insecurity in children). Subcommittee will work at the next subcommittee meeting to decide if these should be combined before being presented to Board of Health.

-Paul Schultz - Priority 3: Increase Food Recovery

-Catherine Caitlin - Purchase of Services, recommended priorities

-Purchase of Services priorities listed are initiatives DCFPC would be interested in supporting, regardless of who takes on those initiatives. County's Purchase of Services Contract opportunities will take the place of the annual grants that used to be distributed through the council.

-Rich wants to make the point that funding producers for the growing season doesn't match up quite right with the fiscal year beginning July 1 (which all county funding runs on).

Supervisor McDonough notes that there will be growing and adjustments that have to happen as we transition from grants to Purchase of Services. Perhaps DCFPC members can provide input for the county supervisors as they develop this process.

General plan feedback:

- January 2019 was the origin of when the DCFPC and when much of the strategic planning work began
- January 2022 is when the current plan began being developed. The intention is not to create a plan and put it on the shelf and not reference it again. This plan includes monitoring and evaluation to follow up and move the plan forward.
- Note that the plan identifies the WHAT (priorities), but not necessarily the HOW or the WHO. Some of these actions will be (or are already being) addressed by community partners. DCFPC does not necessarily have to be the entity that carries out all these actions. It is more to serve as a central hub of information sharing to put people in touch with resources they need.
- Paul suggests that there is a lot of emphasis on emergency food/food insecurity, and wants the council to remember that making longerm food system changes to PREVENT emergency food situations.
 - Sunil echoes that right now “emergency” feels like an appropriate tone as we are still coming out of the pandemic and deal with supply chain issues. Around year 4 or 5 it may be time to start focusing on systemic changes that can help mitigate emergencies. DCFPC does have to be ready for a potentially *new* emergency that may come up in the future.
- The Subcommittee would like to submit the plan and present at the next County Board of Health meeting, and eventually to the county supervisors. This plan should hopefully serve as a backbone and reference point for the county and other food system partners.

Council updates:

- SNAP benefits will end at the end of this month will not be sufficient to cover the rising costs of food. This is a big issue we should be aware of.
 - This is where Purchase of Services funding can play a big role
 - Example: Supervisor McDonough mentioned that St. Patrick’s church in Dyersville just submitted a \$20,000 request to supervisors for additional storage, refrigeration, and capacity for feeding meals for those in need
- Question: are there limits or boundaries for DCFPC members and what they can speak publicly on?
 - Example, if contacted by a news outlet, do we reference the plan only, point them to supervisors, answer specifying it’s a personal opinion only, etc.? Need clarification.
- By 2027 the Food Bank’s plan intends to have 100% nutritional food only, not some of the non-nutritional items that have been donated.
- Shout out to Michaela for years of her work as chair!

Motion to adjourn: 5:11pm

Kathy motions to adjourn
Rich 2nd
All approved

Next meeting:

4:00pm - Monday, April 11, 2022