

DUBUQUE COUNTY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 11, 2022, 4:00 p.m.

HYBRID Meeting:

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

View Zoom video here: <https://youtu.be/za312axbAQE>

MEETING MINUTES

Council members present: Andy Spaniol, Rich Henderson, Michaela Freiburger, Paul Schultz, Whitney Sanger, Sunil Malapati, Kathy Hutton, Paul Uzel, Octavius Evan

Council members not present: Cindy Hilken, Lynn Sutton, Catherine Caitlin, Laurana Snyder

Non-council members present: Candace Eudaley, Danielle Stowell, Ray Kruse (ISU Extension), Ann McDonough (county supervisor), Harley Pothoff (county supervisor), Hendrik Schultz (board of health), Samantha Kloft (board of health), Sandra Larson (board of health)

Call to order: 4:03 pm

Welcome to new DCFPC members: Paul Uzel introduction. Laurana Snyder could not attend today, but has been approved to join council

Approval of minutes:

Sunil Motion to approve March minutes

Kathy 2nd

Minutes approved

Public comments: Sandra Larson, current chairperson of Dubuque County Board of Health introduced herself and wanted to show support of the council from the board of health – looking forward to working together.

Review of Bylaws/Council member expectations:

General comments on Bylaws and council member make up:

- Kathy suggested we should recruit a producer/grower on the council. Most agree but making the time during growing seasons could be a challenge for them.
- Ray pointed out that we don't have a lot of fruit/vegetable growers within Dubuque County. A lot of these products we see at farmers' markets come from Wisconsin, not locally, so finding someone may be hard
- Whitney challenged each council member to reach out to one producer or small scale farmer individually before the next meeting. Even if they can't join the council, having their participation in the meetings would still be beneficial.
- Michaela listed FarmTek, O'Connell Organic Acres, or Dubuque County Conservation as past producers who were involved, so reaching out to past collaborators again could be useful.

- Paul U. pointed out that council members bringing voice to/representing producers and farmers is still helpful and makes the council an asset to BoH
- Sunil suggested that also including someone from the processing end of food production would be good to have represented on the Council
- Paul S. has concerns that the current strategic plan leads the council in a new direction than the original bylaws state, so they may need to be further revised
- Ray Kruse reiterated that the agreement between extension and DCFPC indicates that Ray does not represent or endorse policy, and will not vote. Adding a line about voting to the "Ex-officio" description would be beneficial.

Attendance:

- Danielle will begin a spreadsheet tab to track attendance for the year-to-date. The bylaws attendance policy will be enforced going forward. The chair will reach out and have a conversation to gauge interest with any council members who miss a significant number of meetings.

Strategic Plan Adoption:

Sunil Motions to vote on adoption strategic plan

Paul U. 2nd

Michaela abstained

Motion passes, Strategic Plan will be used to inform DCFPC priorities going forward

Subcommittee realignment: Before the next DCFPC meeting, council members should review the strategic plan and decide which subcommittee to join. Danielle will share the subcommittee sign-up spreadsheet.

- Existing Subcommittees
 - Strategic Plan (evaluation)
 - Contracted Vendor
- New Subcommittees
 - Local Foods Economy
 - Healthy Food Access
 - Food Waste Minimization

Local Food Planner update:

- USDA local foods/farmers market grant opportunities are available. City staff has begun convening meetings to talk about how to partner and apply for the funds. The purpose of going for this large funding is for bringing together the food system across all sectors: producers, food hub, processors, farmers market, etc.
- Farm To Table Update:
 - Site selection is being finalized, Whitney offered use of equipment from the Project Rooted dinner to save on budget.
- Lincoln Elementary Garden Update:
 - Because of a lot of restrictions on their grant funds, the timeline is moving slower than anticipated but still moving forward.
 - Earth Day weekend they will host an event for parents and students to plan tomato plants
- City of Dubuque is putting together a guide related to individuals producing and selling food on their own property. Candace is providing oversight to make sure code issues addressed in the feedback from our stakeholders is addressed.

Community updates:

- Party for the Planet Sign up: Sunil will lead STEM/food-related activity.
- Samantha will also attend on behalf of the county health department. Michaela and Whitney will be attending for the Energy District and project Rooted.
- 8:30 am - 11 am shift: Sunil Malapati, Whitney Sanger
- 11 am - 2 pm: Paul Schultz offered that Green Iowa Americorp staff can help staff the table during this time if needed
- 2 pm - 4 pm: Paul Uzel, Sunil Malapati
- Samantha Kloft:
 - Grantee reports are due this week, so Samantha will send to council for review/filing before next council meeting
 - The Wellness Coalition will meet Thursday at 10:30 am via Zoom. Partial focus is on food insecurity, so representation from the policy council would be great
- Word Exercise:
 - Whitney challenged each person on the call to share one word that they feel describes the council now, and one word for the future. Lots of great sharing!
- Paul Uzel:
 - Interfaith Green Coalition is planning a conference for "green" practices and information sharing. DCFPC has an opportunity to partner or table at the event.
 - Tentatively scheduled for October 8th or 9th, 2022 (Saturday or Sunday is undecided), at Westminster Church Fellowship Hall

Motion to adjourn: 5:07pm

Paul S. motions to adjourn

Paul U. 2nd

All approved

Next meeting:

4:00pm - Monday, May 9, 2022