

Food & Farm Council of Riley County & City of Manhattan

January 20th, 2019 11:30am - 1pm

Manhattan Public Library, 629 Poyntz Ave., Manhattan KS 66502

In Attendance: Vickie James (FFC Coordinator), David Procter, Stephanie Smith, Andrea DeJesus, Maureen Olewnik, Adrian Self, Gregg Eyestone, Sharolyn Jackson, Jennifer Morris, Jaden Castinado, Carol Barta, John Green, Julie Gibbs (county liaison)

Unable to attend: Kirsten Spear, Jacquie Mack, Joshua Brewer, Shanika Rose (county liaison), Elias Martinson (city liaison)

Friends of the Council: Ann Smit, Teresa Sanborn, Miranda Klugesherz

1. Introductions
2. Agenda review
 - Noted change to agenda and meeting location. It was reiterated that changes like this will always be noted in e-mail communication. The Brand and Marketing strategies presentation scheduled for this meeting will occur at the next regularly scheduled F&FC meeting, February 17, 2020. (Also a holiday, so we will meet at the **Riley County Senior Services Center, 301 North 4th Street, Manhattan, KS. 66502 (President's Day!)**)
3. Building the framework
 - a. Peine grant – F&FC received \$10,000 from the Peine foundation. This in addition to the \$5,000 previously received from that foundation. These grant dollars are to be used to focus on waste management.
 - b. John Hopkins Food Policy Network Project: We have been included in their “wheel of work” for 2019, which is a great honor! Vickie shared the updated “wheel” and passed around. Kansas has 3 groups included in that wheel (Manhattan/Riley Co., Douglas Co, and Western Prairie). The Manhattan/Riley Co. slot was noted for work on waste management focus.
 - c. Today’s guest is Miranda Klugesherz, Director of KC Healthy Kids. Miranda discussed the work that she is doing with food alliances and councils state wide, noting that each has different needs, but could benefit from discussion between councils on ideas that do and do not work.
In discussion, Miranda noted that there will be a statewide meeting of all councils – it is currently in the planning stage. Her group will cover the costs of at least 2 people from each council to attend this meeting.
Vickie suggested that we send ideas to KC Healthy Kids group.
4. What’s our work?

The Flint Hills Wellness Coalition flow chart was shared with the group reminding all how we got to the point of organized CAT communities including the 60+ community partners. Progress by these committees is encouraging:

a. Education CAT areas of focus

1. Kitchen Restore
2. Food Skills Education programs
3. Boys and Girls club asked us to be part of the after school programming
4. A SWAT team formed to take care of health department, Extension, etc. to share events activities, utilize student's help and identify leadership.

This CAT will meet the 4th Monday of every month at 4:00 PM, location TBD.

b. Food insecurity CAT areas of focus

1. Mechanics of getting an ATA bus that will be provided to Common Table. What is the best use of that bus? Food Truck? Transporting Food? Transporting people? Etc.
2. Blessing Boxes – additional ways to provide food for people that don't meet requirements of the Breadbasket, etc. Offering an additional way to provide food to those in need in a strategic and sustainable manner.
3. Increase the number of free meal sites in the City and County. Current sites are at capacity. **This CAT meets on the second Monday of each month at 10 AM, location TBD.**

c. Waste CAT

This CAT has agreed to work on all areas of waste including food waste and hard materials waste. The City Commissioner is supportive of the idea of working on this and may be able to provide in-kind assistance.

Major focus areas for this CAT will be

1. Restaurant waste
2. Consumer waste reduction – try to create youth advocates by working with JR. high age students to build a voice and leadership.
3. Collaborate with the Education CAT

This CAT meets on the 2nd Friday of each month from 8:30 – 9:30 AM, location TBD.

5. Shared purpose

- a. The Group then broke out into CAT team discussion pods to consider where each CAT is and discuss questions and concerns

6. **Next meeting, Monday, February 17th at the Riley County Senior Services Center, 301 North 4th Street, Manhattan, KS. 66502 (President's Day!)**

CAT leadership breakout notes (during the January FFC meeting)

1/20/2020

Education – Jennifer Morris, Sharolyn Jackson, Julie Gibbs

Meeting minutes provided a great reference to reflect upon

General feedback about the meeting process

There is some concern about those not in attendance. How do we keep them engaged in the process and who communicates these engagement ideas to those not there?

Concerns you have

- To what capacity does our Ed CAT have /need/want to be involved with Lucas....manpower and coordination?
- Are we on the same page that our process should be sustainable?
- Importance of continuity

Questions you have

- KSDE Healthy Snacks – conversation with Lucas to better understand

Priority needs for the CAT

- Sustainability in policy process regarding SWAT
- Policy idea – meet summer before school programs, to assess the year to come for possible “one and done”

Changes suggested from the existing process in place

- Interested in ‘workflow’ guidance going forward

To Do by our FFC

- For us (FFC) remind of importance of sustainability to prevent partners from burnout.

Prioritize/scale back potential for success?

Talk to everyone, always keeping ear to street. ‘what’s our process to bring the info back’?

Food Insecurity

General feedback about the meeting, the process

- Productive, going well

Concerns you have

- Focused on Manhattan
- How do we keep energy going/sustainability
- Need more boxes downtown

- Food bus discussion making – process was already underway
- Will food site get tired?
- Leadership burnout

Questions you have

- Where else could we put blessing boxes?
- How do we keep boxes filled?
- Storage for donated food?
- Can we reach out to students
- Is there a facebook page for Blessing Boxes?

Priority needs for the CAT

- Additional meal sites, churches already doing it – connect to CT

Changes suggested from the existing process in place

- Need much more extensive food recovery
- Storage space

“to do” by our FFC

- Bus/food truck group meeting before full committee

Waste

General feedback about the meeting, the process

- The meeting ended with better direction than going in.
- Two of the partners were very vocal (Bill with K-State recycling and Enrique), and we need to try to engage the other partners particularly the representative from Howie’s.

Concerns you have

- Possible issues with recycling hard materials – tariffs have affected recyclable shipping. Are we now just sorting landfill?
- The community may not sophisticated enough to ask the right questions on recycling.
- Current recycling economy is insolvent at this point.
- Some partners are not engaged – we need to make sure that they feel engaged even if they are on the ‘side-lines’.

Priority needs for the CAT

- Foster relationship with community partners and make sure that our work aligns with partner business.
- Setting up a system for verifying a championship programs acknowledging participation of restaurants in a program.
- Identify goals for the ‘championship’. Set levels
- Leading opportunity, 5 – 10 restaurants to participate after criteria is established. CAT would work with Education CAT to write and develop requirements. 6 levels – we would need KPI’s (key performance indicators) for each level