

Food & Farm Council of Riley County & City of Manhattan
April 20, 2020, 11:30am – 12:30pm

Meeting via Zoom

Zoom recording of the meeting can be accessed here:

https://ksu.zoom.us/rec/share/4MxUD6_htWxLY6_c1X3nV5Z6IKu9eaa8gCUb-PFenUqY5jVBIRY345SYx5K4DcQA

In Attendance: Vickie James (FFC Coordinator), David Procter, Andrea DeJesus, Maureen Olewnik, Adrian Self, Gregg Eyestone, Kirsten Spear, Jacquie Mack, Sharolyn Jackson, Jennifer Morris, Shanika Rose (county liaison), Jaden Castinado, Joshua Brewer, Elias Martinson (city liaison), John Green, Carol Barta

Guests: Teresa Sanborn, Ann Smit

Unable to Attend: Stephanie Smith, Michael Wilson, Julie Gibbs

1. Public meeting guidelines: Keep microphone muted, unmute yourself to speak. When you speak, state your name and your role. This is being recorded and will be provided to the city and county to post on their websites. There is a chat box for guests. Adrian will monitor. Guests are, as always, welcome to ask questions and offer comments.
2. Attendance taken - everyone shared one positive thing in their lives right now.
3. No one had anything to add to agenda
4. We received the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation grant to create our website and work on consumer education. 502 Media agreed to match these funds and help up with the project. With the pandemic, some of this information is rapidly changing, for example: location of school meal sites, SNAP eligibility, change in Harvesters schedule, Blessing Boxes, Downtown Farmers Market, which restaurants are doing curbside service, delivery or closed. A website can help the community stay current with rapidly changing events. Open to discussion and comments:
 1. Andrea motions that we move forward with 502Media contract for building the site, Carol seconds the motion.
 2. Jacquie asks the time frame for implementation.
 3. Josh: time frame is usually 2-3 months. His goal would be to expedite the project, however. He can't have an exact time, but they would try to move quickly on it.
 4. Vickie: we will rely on our FFC connections to maintain information to keep the website current. We will need feedback on what we need to have on the site.
 5. Sharolyn: website would be built by 502, but who will have access to update information?
 6. Josh: 502 would have a contact person for us. Website would be editable by anyone on the council as long as they went through the training to do so.
 7. Vote: Motion has passed 13-0. Vickie and Administrative Council will serve as advisory team to work with 502Media but e-mail from Vickie will go to all Council for providing input for content, and priorities plus if they want to be more involved in the process.

5. We still have a Peine grant LOI in process for Kitchen Restore. We have not heard anything, not sure if anything has changed with current COVID-19 situation.
6. If anyone is made aware of any grant that would be applicable to the Council or to any of our partners, please bring them forward. We will need help from Council in writing the grants if any come up.
7. Greater Manhattan Community Foundation could possibly serve as our 501(c)(3). However, we are not sure if this is possible because we are a city/county appointed council. Elias is looking into this. If GMCF was our partner, we might have more visibility as an organization in creating awareness of our work to potential donors.
8. Does anyone have a need in their organization for a student intern this summer? Intern would need to be able to work remotely. Please let Vickie know.
 1. Sharolyn: do we know the background of student?
 2. Vickie: no, it was just to see if we have an interest.
 3. Sharolyn is interested. Adrian as well.
 4. Ariana leaves next week back to Afghanistan – please send her and email to wish her safe travels! Rachel leaves in June. Thank you for your work, Ariana and Rachel! Their email addresses are on our email list.
 5. Josh: 502 could use an intern to help with data entry to help the website project go faster.
 6. Jennifer: Possibly if the student had nutrition background I'd be interested.
9. Farmer's market: the FFC Admin council put together a letter of support for the farmer's market. Vote was 3:2 by the city commissioners to move forward with the opening of the market as planned in the mall parking lot. The market opened on Saturday.
 1. Andrea: first, thank you to Vickie for the support. Josh, thanks for the help with the video. Thank you to the people who showed support on social media. Vendor numbers were down, next week should be better. Media coverage about farmer's market being healthier than grocery store with help with public perception, and Essentials Market has helped. Josh used the term "essential market" when discussing it on social media, which is very helpful.
 2. Josh: 502 doesn't have crisis communication experience, but they were able to help. Andrea's video on Facebook live was great to get a positive message out to the public.
 3. Jacquie says video was great, clear, and had good information.
 4. Vickie: FFC across Kansas have had zoom meetings which she has been able to be a participant on. She's asked questions about how other farmer's markets and other parts of the food system have made changes in the face of COVID-19. She has been able to push this information out to our farmer's market and to others. We need to keep in mind that Andrea can recommend but not require guidelines at the farmer's market beyond what are the Governor's and county guidelines, along with those from Dept of Ag as related to markets.
10. Blessing boxes
 1. Sharolyn: how is this working and who is providing the food?
 2. Gregg: general cost of 75\$ cost to build boxes. Food is being provided by churches and everyday people.

3. Ann: the one at First Congregational Church is filled by church members. One by health department was filled by health department staff, we're not sure if this is still happening with stay at home orders in place. It's expensive to fill the boxes because of the need for shelf stable foods.
11. Where does FFC work go from here? (Keeping in mind everyone's current work load with COVID-19) Blessing boxes are necessary. Grocery guidelines are necessary, what else? Vickie cannot do all of this. We need leads on CATS to step up to work on projects.
 1. Andrea: food insecurity CAT: working on Common Table churches expanding locations for meals. Can we help with expanding the amount of box meals they're providing?
 2. Ann: People are contacting Common Table through the website saying that they cannot get to the current meal sites. They have legitimate need. Providing a Meals on Wheels-like service but serving people of all age groups that have a need would be a very beneficial project.
 3. Andrea: what about everyone staying at home right now? Can we call for volunteers to help Common Table deliver?
 4. Ann: Common table leaders feel like they don't have any more bandwidth to take on new projects.
 5. Carol: would having additional church locations (ones that don't have service space but have kitchen space) help prepare and deliver?
 6. Ann: Preparation and delivery of meals by additional church locations would be helpful.
 7. Vickie: This could be a project for a committee.
 8. Josh: Had a group of friends from the gym that were interested in volunteering. Deb Nuss reached out from Harvesters asking for volunteers, and the group from the gym was ready to go. Can we get a volunteer base built, then have them ready to go when needed?
 9. Ann: One thing that has happened with take-out only is that it generally requires less volunteers to work shifts. Also notes that Harvester's had to cancel their Manhattan days because a worker became infected.
 10. Andrea: does Common Table have to be through a church or can families adopt a family in need?
 11. Ann: we have to follow health procedures; it would be too hard to ensure this if the meal prep was not done on site.
 12. Josh: Kirsten: can restaurants help provide kitchen space?
 13. Kirsten: Not sure about other restaurants in town. One Egg group restaurants are still fully operational during the day, and are feeding all of our furloughed employees.
 14. Josh: commercial kitchens would have the ability to feed people safely.
 15. Adrian: During the holiday season, Uber had a program where people could donate rides to others in need. Perhaps there could be something similar to this for delivering food.

16. Vickie: family to family is too risky to ensure food safety. We need to rely on the people who are Serve Safe certified and have food prep skills.
12. What about other CATS?
1. Food education will be needed once all of this is over.
 1. Jennifer: can reach out to education CAT to communicate about the website project with 502 and this current discussion. There is so much information available, we don't need to reinvent the wheel.
 2. Jacquie: Agrees with Jennifer. How will we provide information to the public? How we gather will be different for the foreseeable future. Is online video information better than other ways of distributing information?
 3. Sharolyn: Extension already has these things developed that can be used.
 2. Kitchen Restore
 1. People are cleaning out their drawers during the stay home order and lots of people are in need. We still need a location for Restore. We can be careful with social distancing; we just need a room and a place to clean and organize donations. If anyone can think of a good location, make sure to reach out to Vickie.
 3. As far as the Waste CAT goes, their projects will need to be retooled as well.
 4. We need to reconnect with partners to see what current needs are. Then, reach out to CATS to determine our next steps.
 1. Vickie: can't do it all alone, need to hear what council wants to do
 2. Jacquie: thinks this is important, can help along with Jennifer
 3. Josh: at full council level, we need to think about the purpose of CATS moving forward. From discussion it seems like food insecurity is the most pressing current concern. Is this a shared opinion?
 4. John: with the Food Waste CAT, so much disruption has occurred with food service partners they hoped to connect with. We still need to do this work, but right now we might be more helpful by focusing on food insecurity.
13. Vickie: FFC Admin council will keep on top of meeting monthly and working through projects. Let's all think about what we can do that's feasible, while still staying healthy. We can assume that we will meet again in a month by Zoom. Vickie will reach out to everyone via email with questions about website needs.



In accordance with provisions of the American Disabilities Act, every attempt will be made to accommodate the needs of person with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in and enjoy the benefits of our services, programs, and activities. Please contact the Health Department Administration Office (785-776-4779) for assistance.