

Food & Farm Council of Riley County & City of Manhattan

May 18, 2020 11:30am-12:30pm

Here is the Zoom link to listen/watch the May 18th, 2020 recorded FFC meeting

https://ksu.zoom.us/rec/share/4vxUKp3cyI5letLzs2WcA6UOOZbrT6a80yUb_PALxE5-IBeJ38759jBVDtzHUQCF

In Attendance: Vickie James (FFC Coordinator), David Procter, Stephanie Smith, Andrea DeJesus, Maureen Olewnik, Adrian Self, Gregg Eyestone, Kirsten Spear, Jacquie Mack, Sharolyn Jackson, Joshua Brewer, Michael Wilson, Carol Barta, John Green, Jennifer Morris, Shanika Rose (county liaison), Elias Martinson (city liaison), John Adam (county liaison), Patty McKenna (Student Intern),

Unable to Attend: Jaden Castinado Guests: Ann Smit, Barb Depew

Public meeting policies to follow: This is being recorded, please state name before speaking. Please keep microphone on mute unless speaking. Begin with roll call. Votes will be taken in an auditory fashion for those who may be listening but not have video.

1. Building our framework
 - a. Grant updates
 - i. Kitchen restore has received a \$5,000 Peine Grant for purchasing supplies for kitchen kits.
 - ii. CDRR grant has been awarded – not the full amount, but we can use it! Thank you to Shanika for your work on this.
 - iii. GMCF award will be used for building our website with the help of 502 Media Group.
 - b. Please pass on any local or state grants that make sense for our council.
2. What's our work?
 - a. Can/Should the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation serve as our 501c3?
 - i. Sometimes there is competition between Riley County Health Department and FFC for grants.
 - ii. We might have more visibility if we are partner with GMCF.
 - iii. Julie Gibbs has checked to see if it's even possible, but wasn't sure.
 - iv. Elias has reached out to the city. The city attorney says that they cannot answer the question, and that we should seek legal counsel to determine whether or not this is possible.
 1. Should we still pursue this:
 - a. Adrian: If she didn't say no, go with it and seek legal counsel as needed.
 - b. Jacquie: Even though this would give us visibility, we need to stay within what is allowed.
 - c. Dave: question on blessing box fee - should this still be payable to RCHD?
 - i. Vickie – yes.
 - d. Maureen moves that we move to stay with the RCHD
 - i. Jacquie seconds

ii. Vote: All in favor, 14-0

b. Farmers Market Update

- i. Andrea: Things are going well. They had the go ahead from RCHD Director to have non-essential vendors at the last market. They will remove the drive through this week as it's a safety concern with pedestrians. As it's getting warm, some vendors are concerned about the feasibility of wearing masks in the heat. Andrea is reaching out to her colleagues in southern states to see how they are working through this issue.
- ii. Vickie: let's recognize the amazing hard work that our local producers who have worked to make changes so quickly to make reopening possible during an already busy time. Hats off to them!

c. Student Intern this summer, meet Patty McKenna

- i. She will be an intern in summer and fall and will be helping with the website project and kitchen restore.

d. Blessing boxes update

- i. David: The CAT recently met and made good progress. There is a queue of builders who have signed on to build boxes. We now have 4 installed in the community.
 1. Sharolyn: Manhattan Mennonite Church is having a meeting to decide if they're able to take on the upkeep of a blessing box.
 2. David: His church had a similar meeting. They also are looking for guidance on safety practices in this time of COVID-19.
 3. City of Riley has approved to have one installed. The box is in situ ready to be installed.
 4. David will be talking to the Leonardville Pride group this week; they have expressed interest in a blessing box.
 5. Check out the "Blessing Boxes for Manhattan/Riley County" Facebook page with a map, posts about what items to donate, how to donate money, and more information.
 6. Warren Holmes, committee member is getting lumber at cost for us, Shanika is checking into the protocol for getting a RCHD account set up with the lumber co.
 7. RCHD can accept donations for the boxes – to build and stock the boxes.
 8. David: Where are the Blessing Box documents located?
 - a. Vickie: we don't have a place for documents. We could have a Google drive. What does the council think?
 - b. David: A Google drive sounds good. He anticipates we will have an increasing need to share documents.
 - c. Michael: recommends a drop box account because everyone would need a Google account to use Google drive.
 - d. Jennifer: has used google drive without a google email address.
 - e. Sharolyn: recommends Microsoft teams.

- f. Kirsten: if you don't have a personal Microsoft account, you will not be able to use Teams. Some of us have it at work but it operates as a closed system.
 - g. Stephanie: in the same boat as Kirsten- no Microsoft account outside of work, USD 383 uses a closed system.
 - h. Josh: we need a shared collaborative space that works for everyone.
 - i. Vickie: it sounds like Drop Box would be the way to go. Is someone willing to make a motion to move forward?
 - i. Josh makes the motion that 2-3 council members serve as a committee to review options and set up an account for the council.
 - 1. Greg seconds
 - 2. Vote: All in favor
 - 3. Volunteers: Mike, Jennifer, Josh will volunteer to set this up. Mike will lead.
 - j. David: there is a really great FAQ document about the blessing boxes on the Facebook page, if anyone is interested in sharing it.
 - k. Sharolyn: have Julie Gibb's COVID recommendations been added to the Facebook page as an update?
 - i. Vickie: yes. She's recommending that people wipe items down with disinfectant before donating, along with sharing other basic food safety information.
 - l. Josh: question for David: it sounds like the blessing boxes are at churches. Is there any indication that neighborhoods would want them?
 - i. David: a person or group would need to be responsible for maintaining the box. It's quite a commitment; Ann Smit could speak to this.
 - ii. Vickie seconds that other groups she has spoken with have had issues keeping non-church or non-group blessing boxes viable. (individuals trying to maintain)
 - iii. Ann: there is one at the health department that is not faith based. (again, Vickie reference to individually maintained boxes. Our focus is groups)
 - m. Vickie: the CAT is reaching out to rural communities as well about setting up blessing boxes.
- e. Kitchen Restore – WE HAVE A HOME!
- i. Shanika: This project is going well. We are working on building the framework for processes of operation. We are also creating an amazon wish list for people to donate from. Also working with Walmart to create order lists so we don't wipe out their supply.
 - ii. Location is at the Family Resource Center. Thank you to Julie Gibbs for getting this approved during a very busy time! Date to begin use June 8th.

- iii. The kitchen restore flyer has been updated since donation sites are closed. People can call to arrange a pickup of donated items.
 - f. Kansas Health Foundation and Tufts University has asked for responses from a survey about Food and Farm councils. Vickie asks that everyone on the council take the 15-20 minutes to complete this survey. This is relating to our council, and will help us see how everything is going.
 - i. Jacquie notes that the responses are either somewhat agree or extremely agree- no middle option. Notes that there is an option to add comments.
 - ii. Vickie: not sure if survey has a way to identify how new our council is, and how we have had to bench projects because of COVID-19.
- 3. Shared Purpose
 - a. Next steps with website/FFC members
 - i. Admin council will be meeting with Josh at 502 during the website build. The council will report out to main council with progress, updates, and when feedback is needed.
 - ii. We need a council member to update the site.
 - 1. Josh explains the block system for updating the website. Ensures that it will be a very easy process.
 - 2. No volunteers yet from the council. Reach out to Vickie if you're interested.
 - iii. Vickie: we will need funding for upkeep. Start thinking about who this might be in our community.
 - iv. There will be a survey that goes out to council members about what we think needs to go on the website.
 - 1. Examples that would be helpful in our current situation: common table changes, USD 383 meal site updates, bus route changes.
 - b. What is next for each CAT?
 - i. Admin council recommended that we wait until late May to get in contact to get groups going again.
- 4. We will meet again on Monday, June 15th, 2020 11:30am, Zoom meeting planned.