

## Food & Farm Council of Riley County & City of Manhattan

### July 20th, 2020 11:30am-1pm ZOOM Meeting

In Attendance: Joshua Brewer, Jaden Castinado, Andrea DeJesus, Sharolyn Jackson, Jacquie Mack, Maureen Olewnik, David Procter, Adrian Self, Kirsten Spear, Michael Wilson, Vickie James (FFC Coordinator), Elias Martinson, Shanika Rose.

Unable to Attend: Gregg Eyestone, John Green, Carol Barta, Jennifer Morris, Stephanie Smith

Guests: Lance Wilson (KVS), Mary Mertz (farm bureau), Megan Dougherty, incoming Council member

Roll will be called so those listening and without video can identify who is present. Please also, state your name when speaking throughout the meeting.

1. Introduction of Megan Dougherty, new council member. Megan will be replacing Gregg on the council for the upcoming term. Thank you for your service, Gregg!
2. An adoption of additional agenda items was approved by the council.
3. Revision of Bylaws – We are voting on a wording change regarding procedure for appointments.
  - Section 4.2 Current wording
    - i. “For all subsequent appointments, the Flint Hills Wellness Coalition Nutrition Workgroup Leadership Team and the City and County Staff Liaisons shall recruit and recommend candidates to the City or County Commission upon notification that a seat has become available for appointment by that Commission.”
  - Section 4.2 Proposed wording change
    - i. Replace the words Flint Hills Wellness Coalition Nutrition Workgroup Leadership Team with the words Administrative Council of the Food and Farm Council.
  - Section 4.2 Wording as it would read if revised
    - i. For all subsequent appointments, the Administrative Council of the Food and Farm Council and the City and County Staff Liaisons shall recruit and recommend candidates to the City or County Commission upon notification that a seat has become available for appointment by that Commission.
  - Andrea has moved to adopt the change; David Proctor has seconded.
    - i. All are in favor; no member has opposed.
4. Election of officers for the coming year – done by electronic ballot via Zoom technology  
Gregg and John voted by absentee ballot as well.
  - Chair Elect: Adrian Self and Maureen Olewnik (co-chair)
    - i. All in favor

- Secretary: Kirsten Spear
  - i. All in favor
- 5. Equity within the food system discussion
  - Shanika, Carol, and Josh have worked on creating an equity within the food system statement for our council to use. The statement will broadly state that all people should have access to healthy foods. We will share what learning we have done because of increased awareness of issues in inequality in the food system and will have steps and actions we are taking based on that learning. The group has put together a statement for the council, but would appreciate any input.
  - Vickie shared the Riley County Opportunity Map on her screen, and will email out the link to this resource. Would the council like to have someone walk through the map with us?
    - i. Kirsten Spear: yes, this would be of interest
    - ii. Josh: wonders if the data we have about food insecurity in our community is broken down into racial or ethnic data as well. Vickie says that it is not.
  - IF anyone has information to share and help with this statement, please send on to group above or Vickie.
- 6. Discussion of our council's survey results from FFC survey from across state.
  - The graphic on the first page took all of the partners council members listed and placed them in color-coded sectors. There are a few errors, but it is an interesting graphic. Vickie is interested in our feedback on using this graphic in the future?
    - i. Council in agreement.
  - Data from our council was compared with data from the rest of the state.
  - The data that was gathered is color-coded as strengths/opportunities. The color coding showed highest numbers in green, middle in yellow/orange, and lowest number as red. This method of ranking wasn't the best, will be changed next time. Even high scores are marked low when they were the lowest in a subset. The survey developers will be altering that as it's not really very accurate in cases like ours where a 4.65/5.00 is "red" because it's our lowest score.
  - Comments:
    - i. Having a website will help our council have greater impact in our community.
    - ii. The blessing boxes and kitchen restore have had immense impact already.
    - iii. The impacts of COVID has put projects on hold, but we have still been able to help in the community.
    - iv. The blessing box committee had a goal of creating 10 new boxes this year, and they have achieved that.
    - v. The education group was on the right track before COVID. Schools and clubs closing ground this work to a halt.

- vi. The groundwork we had in place (especially our connections with our partners) before COVID has helped us be the best council we could be during this pandemic.
- vii. Our leadership is key in what is getting things done.
- viii. Community visibility is an important part of our impact- our website and “on the ground” work will keep us visible.
- ix. Our relationship building with our community partners has been spot on since the beginning, and shows impact.
- x. Managing conflict fairly had a low score in the leadership section of the survey. If anyone has any comments or suggestions for this, please communicate them.
- xi. In discussing the “work shared fairly between members” section, Vickie comments that we need all members to be active in their CATs to share the work between us.
- xii. Organization was also marked lower – not sure on that one. We seem very organized.
- xiii. If anyone has any comments, please share them. If you have not read the survey results, please do so.

#### 7. Grant opportunities

- Vickie looked into guidelines as a city/county appointed council for use of 501c organizations versus government entities, like the RCHD or Extension. There’s gray area here to figure out, and it’s possibly preventing us from getting grant money to do this work.
- One grant is for food insecurity in our area. Vickie has a zoom meeting 8/18/20 with food insecurity partners to discuss a mobile pantry/food distribution via busses. Vickie proposes a motion to apply for these state funds
  - i. Michel Wilson motions, Jacquie Mack seconds
  - ii. All in favor; no member opposed
- Greater Manhattan community foundation has funds for community groups. Vickie would like a motion to seek those funds.
  - i. Maureen Olewnik has made the movement, Andrea DeJesus has seconded.
  - ii. All are in favor; no member opposed.

#### 8. Food distribution through KVS

- i. Lance Wilson is from KVS and is a guest today.
- ii. He represents Foster and Adoption and Family Preservation Services. They have partnered with Liberty Food CO in KC. Once a week they distribute produce with no income requirements. The distribution point for Manhattan is at city park. The third round of distribution will be from September 1<sup>st</sup> through end of October. The first week KVS distributed food, it took 3.5 hours to give everything away, last week took only took 1.5 hours. There has been a very positive and grateful response from the community.

- iii. They will need more volunteers to be able to continue. They need to determine if this is the best site for a distribution, or if other sites need to be developed.
    - 1. Andrea can help connect to local growers
      - a. Since they are located in Olathe, they are using liberty fruit. However, they can reach out to local growers if they get their next bid is approved.
    - 2. They need groups to pick up for their populations/customers.
      - a. Jacquie mentioned independent senior living would be a good fit for this type of distribution.
    - 3. Andrea mentioned that the next round of funding will have an income requirement, and that the next round will have to be “truck to trunk” i.e. distributor to people, eliminating the not for profit that has been distributing the boxes. Andrea now has to verify that people are in need to receive boxes for next round.
  - iv. Please reach out to Lance for further conversation.
9. Shared Purpose · Logo/Brand, URL [www.nourishtogether.org](http://www.nourishtogether.org)
- Website update:
    - i. Overview of website shared on Vickie’s screen. Do we like it?
      - 1. Our council likes it. Michael says it looks great. Sharolyn likes the food picture at the bottom. Jacquie likes the color contrast for the buttons. Maureen thinks the photo should have locally available food rather than thing that don’t grow here (avocados, salmon, et cetera).
      - 2. Josh: we need to think of the mobile version of the site. Vickie screen shared what that will look like, as this will likely be the most common usage type of the site.
      - 3. The Admin council has been serving as the website design team. They gave the feedback which resulted in the webpage we are looking at today.
      - 4. Vickie needs a professional photo from each of our council members for the website. Please send these as soon as possible
10. Friendly reminder for our council members, please be sure to attend your CAT meetings.
11. Next Council meeting date/location (Monday, Sept 21, 2020, 11:30am) via Zoom.



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.