

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

### February 15, 2021 11:30 am-1:00 pm ZOOM Meeting

In Attendance: Carol Barta, Jaden Castinado, Andrea DeJesus, Megan Dougherty, John Green, Sharolyn Jackson, Maureen Olewnik, Adrian Self, Kirsten Spear, Michael Wilson, Vickie James (FFC Coordinator), Elias Martinson.

Unable to Attend: David Procter, Stephanie Smith, Jennifer Morris, Josh Brewer, Jacquie Mack, Shanika Rose

Guests: Erica Blair, Mary Mertz, Linda Morris

Recorded Meeting Link

<https://ksu.zoom.us/rec/share/wqbT0pZD9kXRdtct4TBO0XiO6xWLqFabhDSTJxLA65jtxFTOWNaVoXD6rJxJbadW.J0pYHjc2smChqVJD>

#### 1. Work Updates

- Nourish Together survey results/needs
  - i. 54 total surveys. 7 were incomplete.
    - 1. The survey was anonymous, so we don't know how many of our council members completed the survey. The rest of the surveys were completed by our CAT members.
  - ii. How often do people go to the site?
    - 1. The majority of the responses were "occasional but not frequently"
    - 2. A few were daily, a few were occasionally.
    - 3. 6 people replied "never looked at it, but now that I'm reminded I will"
  - iii. What features should we add:
    - 1. Lots of good here – can't think of anything to add, many felt it was already very thorough.
    - 2. Suggestions for monthly calendar and interactive map
      - a. We have discussed this in our CAT meetings. Adding these would be an expense that would need to be built into the website. Instead, we can use social media to keep our audience updated for now.
      - b. Do we think we should add a calendar?
        - i. Andrea – thinks we stick with social media, as it's hard to keep a calendar updated
        - ii. Adrian – agreed
        - iii. Maureen – we don't have the bandwidth or funds to keep this up.
        - iv. Carol - would it be possible to have a blurb on our website that says "see our social media page into our
        - v. Elias – you can also imbed a Facebook page on the website – we could link our calendar in this way.

1. Andrea – we share events, but we do not control those events, so this might not work.
3. Testimonials from clients re: how they are using the website:
  - a. Example of the police department is using it.
  - b. This could help reduce the stigma of using the community resource map.
  - c. What do with think about this?
    - i. Andrea thinks this is a great idea.
4. Make sure we stay current
  - a. Vickie has asked each organization to help us by letting us know when things have changed
5. Education section
  - a. Several people suggested we change the name of this, as it is a bit confusing.
    - i. Does anyone have any suggestions for this name?
      1. Food focus, kitchen *something*, I want to learn, teach me, quick tips, save time, save \$\$, household tips, teach me more, teach me how, self-sufficient life hacks, how-to,
      2. Can we change the color of the button?
      3. Can we change the name a few times and see if it drives more traffic?
        - a. This might cause confusion.
    - b. We cannot change its location due to the map of the website.
    - c. Lots of comments “this is excellent, keep it current”
6. Impact trackers:
  - a. We received several suggestions
    - i. Number of FFC Members
    - ii. Common Table stats
    - iii. Food distribution
    - iv. Number of resource guide downloads
  - b. Jennifer Morris has agreed to gather these data points
7. How many articles have you read on the website?
  - a. Very broad, zero to all of the them
    - i. People wanted more simple recipes, gardening how-to, simple food budgeting
8. Facebook page suggestions?
  - a. Links to the resource page
  - b. Info on food distributions
  - c. New recipe links
  - d. Every week add an update on what we’re doing
    - i. Example: “this week we are doing a city/county commission update,” “This week we are meeting as a full council”
9. Anything we should add to the website?

- a. All good things here. One person suggested we add success stories.
  - Blessing Box Challenge/concern
    - i. Michael reported out on the ATA bus blessing box in Westloop. They are having a hard time getting the businesses involved in the area to help fill the box. They think it's probably just ATA bus filling the box now.
    - ii. There is a link on the website on the blessing box page with the guidelines for filling the boxes. There have been some issues with some non-food safe items lately, i.e. raw meat, canned goods when it's so far below 0 degrees.
  - Kitchen Restore
    - i. The new location is really great! There are two volunteer days a month for cleaning up and assembling kits. Several go out every week. The shed behind Salvation Army will be a new drop off point for donations.
  - K-State Food Insecurity Scholars
    - i. Jaden and Adrian went through 27 applications on 2/14 for this program. 35 were received, 25 will be selected.
    - ii. Jaden – this is an academic scholar program focusing on food insecurity
    - iii. Vickie – FFC will be involved with the group, and we will hope they will be able to help with some of our initiatives.
  - Konza Student Table nutrition standard policy
    - i. We now have a nutrition standard in place for this meal program. This will ensure that we keep the meals healthy even if there is a change to the meal provider.
2. 11:45 What's Our Work?
- FFC members leadership roles – Update
    - i. Main things we're missing is the attendance of our council members at the CAT meetings and the writing of blog articles.
  - Communications beyond social media
  - Master Food Plan (documents sent for review)
    - i. This is one of our goals to complete in 2021. There is a committee that has just started meeting to work on this project. Our local food system needs to have a long-range plan for all aspects of the food system, as it impacts our community and economy. We're looking at 5 plans - not to mirror, but to learn from. We have the opportunity to have a consultant to help guide this process.
    - ii. Consultant
      - 1. We have funding to from our pathways grant to hire a consultant to help us develop this master food plan.
    - iii. Plan reviews
      - 1. Food equity statement from on the of the plans – everyone, please review and respond to Vickie. We were working on an equity statement, but the team working on it has been busy with other projects. Let's review this one and go from there.
      - 2. Maureen really liked the one that has information on the “why” of the Master Food Plan before they gave information on the “how” they would do the work.

- iv. Process guidance
- v. Top 3 needs for our Circles of Concern
- City/County Commission Report Feb 18th 4pm
  - i. We did not due an annual update due to COVID, but we are now on the schedule for a report out to the city/county commission. We have a lot to share in the 20 minutes we have, but if anyone has anything to add, please let Vickie know.
- HiAP training through BCBS Pathways grant
  - i. This will be a “train the trainer” type event. Council/community members can attend and then be able to teach other groups in their sphere of influence. The focus will be on learning a HiAP checklist that can be used when making decisions/policy. This will be a valuable tool for anyone who makes decisions. A few of us might have attended the training that took place a few years ago with Flint Hills Wellness Group.
  - ii. Linda Morris notes that this HiAP checklist needs to be completed before any initiative makes it to the commissioners, as at this point there is very little that can be changed at this point. Would like to have more examples of food insecurity issues in our area. Would also like to know from other food master plans what city/counties have done/can do to help.
  - iii. Anyone who would like to attend should let Vickie know.
    - 1. Linda Morris, Erica Blair would like to attend.
- 3. 12:45-1:00 Until We Meet Again – ZOOM
  - City/County Commission update report – Feb 18th 4pm
  - Next FFC meeting date/location Monday, Mar 15th, 2021, 11:30am
  - FFC Adm. Council Monday, Mar 1st, 10:30
  - Food Insecurity CAT, Monday, Mar 8th 10am
  - Waste CAT, Friday, Mar 12th 8:30am
  - Education CAT, Monday, Mar 22nd 4pm



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.