

Food & Farm Council of Riley County & City of Manhattan

March 15th, 2021 11:30 am-1:00 pm ZOOM Meeting

In Attendance: Carol Barta, Joshua Brewer, Jaden Castinado, Andrea DeJesus, John Green, Sharolyn Jackson, Jacquie Mack, Maureen Olewnik, Adrian Self, Stephanie Smith, Kirsten Spear, Vickie James (FFC Coordinator), Elias Martinson, Shanika Rose.

Guests: Mary Mertz, Erica Blair

Unable to Attend: Megan Dougherty, David Procter, Michael Wilson, Jennifer Morris.

Recorded Meeting Link:

https://ksu.zoom.us/rec/play/4Mz7q0CbtuDsrIYLZASyUAXKnB08J-wHkimBT5DTgzW9TiW6biuSW0CA7EVRiqDw_VDfgbnZ9Sjjmwf6.MQPh5vWry-0d9b7?autoplay=true&startTime=1615825879000

1. City/County Commission report
 - a. We had a whole hour to report, and we used the entire time! Sharolyn, Vickie, and Andrea presented.
 - b. The commissioners were very engaged throughout the presentation and asked questions throughout.
 - c. The website was especially helpful to have as a cornerstone of the presentation.
 - d. Vickie was able to introduce our beginning work on the master food plan and let them know that we plan to bring this to them in a year for their approval as a long range planning tool for guidance with food system needs.
 - e. The city manager contacted Elias after the meeting to ask him to put something together to send out to city employees about the FFC work.
 - f. This is the link to the YouTube video with the FFC presentation starting at about 7:36:40: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EfxA1Y7l_0UCity
2. Strategic Planning Committee upcoming public meetings
 - a. You can sign up to join a planning session over zoom. They are coming up – please do sign up soon to participate. Below are the current sessions:
 - i. Monday, March 22, 2021 (12-1 pm)
 - ii. Tuesday, March 23, 2021 (7:30-8:30 am)
 - iii. Wednesday, March 24, 2021 (7-8 pm)
 - iv. Thursday, March 25, 2021 (6-7 pm)
 - b. Visit www.engagemhk.org/crossroads to sign up and learn more.
 - c. Josh: The city is using this time to think of itself as an organization and how it can better serve the citizens of our community. This is to help the city better respond to public input. We are looking at the question of what is the role of a city government. The members of FFC and our partners must be a part of this conversation to help guide the city.
3. Education CAT
 - a. Kitchen Restore
 - i. We have a shed for donation located behind the salvation army. We recently received a large donation of Polish pottery that is being sold on Marketplace.

The proceeds from this sale will help to purchase items that are rarely donated in good enough condition to be reused.

- b. Portable Kitchens
 - i. This is a kit that includes everything you would need to do a food demo for food education. This can be checked out or used by our CATs. There is a group at a local middle school that is planning to use it soon, and our CATs will be able to utilize this when we can do more food education activities as COVID restrictions lift.
 - c. Farmers Market – Power of Produce planning
 - i. A program where educational children's programming is available to families who attend the farmers market. This could be a game or activity with a healthy food learning theme. The children will earn a coin that can be used to purchase a healthy food item from a farmer.
4. Waste CAT
- a. Restaurant Champion Program update
 - i. John Green: the CAT members have started to gather material. Tentative goal to get lined up for a June partnership. Have an auditing criterion in place is a vital piece that is still in process. Need to line up more things to move forward.
 - ii. Vickie has a meeting with a K-State student to work on what the program will look like from a brand standpoint.
5. Recycling discussions, next step
- a. Maureen: talked with David Sauter about recycling in Aggieville. He suggested that we reach out to Jason Hilgers, the deputy city manager. Jason has been in touch with the Aggieville business organization about recycling so this is timely.
 - b. This could look like collective recycling in a busy retail setting, with a focus on glass recycling. This is a project that will tie into our Master Food Plan.
6. Food Insecurity CAT
- a. Blessing Boxes
 - i. Fill the Box Challenge has had a very good representation of groups and businesses challenging each other to “fill the box.” This is a contest, and the winner will receive a gift certificate to use to fill more boxes.
 - ii. If you see anything in the boxes that pose food safety concerns, like raw meat, we ask you to remove them.
 - b. Little Library project discussion
 - i. Someone has approached us regarding unused newspaper boxes from the Manhattan Mercury that could be turned into a little free library/food pantry combination. The food insecurity CAT has responded that we don't think we would be able to maintain these boxes, as they all need to have sponsors. We recommend that they use them for books only or other nonfood items to limit confusion about where Blessing Boxes are located and to be cautious about having so many they can not be maintained.
7. Chronic Disease Risk Reduction Grant (CDRR)
- a. Thank you to Shanika for continuing to be the liaison between our Council and the RCHD
 - b. Shanika has submitted this grant and our workplan is explained below in #8.

8. Kansas Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (KSFMNP)
 - a. Andrea and Vickie have worked on this together
 - b. This is a program to help the seniors fill out the paperwork to participate in the program, and have a proxy make the trip to the farmers market on their behalf. Our goal is to #1. have more seniors sign up for this program and #2. redeem the benefits at the market than have in the past.
 - c. We still want to get this figured out, even if we don't get the grant!
 - d. Please let Vickie know if you are interested in learning how to help seniors sign up for this program. There would be a short training session before you work with the seniors. The program will run through October, but the bulk of the work will be early in the growing season.
 - e. Andrea – We are also looking for someone to be at the market information booth to help with the process when the seniors or their proxy arrive to participate in the program.
9. Website/Social Media
 - a. Spanish translation of Community Resource Map
 - i. Sharolyn asked someone to do this, and we now have this finished and on the website. The translator has also agreed to make slight tweaks in the future as information is updated.
 - b. Need blog contributors
 - i. Vickie would like all of you to go to the website and look at the categories in the "recipes and more" section. If you have expertise in any of these topics, please write a post, and Megan and Sharolyn will format it. Also, send in any topic ideas as you have them.
 - ii. The criteria for the blog posts are on a separate document that will be sent in conjunction with these minutes. Please review them if you have not already done so.
 - c. Testimonials about use of the website
 - i. We have two really good testimonials that have been submitted and will be put on the webpage.
 - d. If you are an organization listed on the website, please write a two-sentence testimonial for us to use. These should be sent to Vickie.
 - e. Jaden – was trying to figure out how to drive people to the website at Cat's Cupboard, and landed on making business card-sized info sheets that are then stapled to lunches that get sent out. Stapling them to something that leaves the building ensures that the information is getting to their student community.
 - i. Is this something we can add to the Konza student meals?
 - ii. Maybe as a QR code added to the paper that goes out with the next weeks' meal?
 - iii. Jaden will share the document, and see if we can add it to the Konza flyer.
10. What's Our Work?
 - a. Pathways Grant
 - i. Received by the Flint Hill Wellness Coalition
 - ii. The FFC name is attached to many of the programs that are under this grant
 - b. Healthy Food RX. Program update

- i. A minimum of two standardized food insecurity questions will be asked as part of the screening process at several of our local organizations.
 - ii. We are working on identifying the people for whom it would make sense to receive a “Food RX” for the farmer’s market. Depending on the percentage of people who receive them, we might be able to expand the number of eligible people.
 - iii. The farmers will be reimbursed through this grant.
- c. Food and Farm Council – intern opportunity
 - i. Part of the is grant is to hire an intern to look at the FFC to see how we can be more effective as well as overall help with some of our current initiatives. This will be very beneficial to our CATs and Vickie.

11. Master Food Plan

- a. Could not meet last month due to the cold weather blackouts. The March meeting will be held on the 16th.
- b. Consultant – we’ve had a slight hiccup here. The scope of work was sent, and the bid came in over budget. Vickie is going to retool the proposal to see if we have flexibility here. We are very excited to work with this person, who has worked on several other Master food plans in the Midwest.
- c. We are in need of a recommendation for graphics work.
- d. Process guidance with community engagement “Take it to the People”
 - i. We have a core team representing FFC – Maureen and Adrian
 - ii. We also need input from a cross-section of the community (city and county). We need this to be a plan for the community based on what the community needs. We’re not sure what this will look like yet – town hall meetings, zoom sessions, et cetera
 - iii. When we go to ask the community questions, who do we want to ask?
 - 1. Local farmers and grocers, public institutions that purchase food, families, grocery store owners and managers, educators and counselors that work with families, clients of our partner agencies (limited income/food insecurity challenges), seniors, students, restaurant owners and caterers, our partner agencies (food pantries, common table), some element of local government, landlords and rental agencies.
 - 2. We want to make sure to include our outlying communities, as this is both city and county work.

12. HiAP training through BCBS Pathways grant

- a. Trainer interest – this is a train the trainer program. We’re looking for 5 people to sit in on a 2-hour training session. Then, we’re looking for people in leadership roles in our local organizations to learn about HiAP, and to learn the checklist that can be used for community decisions. If you have interest in being a trainer, please reach out in the next two weeks to Vickie
- b. Sharolyn and Shanika would like to be a trainer
- c. Food system-related groups we want to offer this opportunity?
- d. FFC will have a session

Next FFC meeting date/location Monday, April 19th, 2021, 11:30 am

FFC Adm. Council Monday, April 5th, 10:30 am

Food Insecurity CAT, Monday, April 12th, 10 am

Waste CAT, Friday, April 9th, 8:30 am

Education CAT, Monday, Mar 22nd, 4 pm and April 26th, 4-5 pm



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.