

Food & Farm Council of Riley County & City of Manhattan

April 19, 2021, 11:30 am-1:00 pm ZOOM Meeting

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

Unable to Attend: David Procter (Erica Blair sitting in for David) Jennifer Morris, Jacquie Mack.

Guests: Mary Mertz, Gretchen Lewis, Erica Blair

Recorded Meeting Link: https://ksu.zoom.us/rec/play/-BlqBj_iblZoTclcVVZcl58ibRPt7RXfFCWMQher3_UNitnhGyE295G38efekLAEDUkyJZa-V4givlMI.kHKFqnXr34hg60Dr?autoplay=true&startTime=1618850099000

a. Education CAT

i. Kitchen Restore

1. Megan: We have two work days a month, and everything is going really well. The group has started adding postage paid feedback cards with each kit. This is to get feedback from clients because we never actually meet with them. They have not added the post cards yet but are excited to start getting feedback to see if there are any item that are still needed in the kit.
2. There was a good article in Manhattan magazine about the program in the last issue: [Manhattan Magazine, Spring 2021 – Kitchen Restore and Blessing Boxes](#) (pg. 6) (pg. 18)
3. Carol has been getting messages on social media from people or social workers who need kits. How do you want people to request kits?
 - a. Megan – Please refer clients to Chase Stephens, Salvation Army Coordinator, who will contact us directly. We are trying to be the invisible third party, because if someone needs a kit, they probably have other needs. These other organizations can better support them. You can reach Chase at chase.stephens@usc.salvationarmy.org or 7853205396

ii. Farmers Market – Power of Produce

1. Power of Produce (POP) is a children’s club designed to engage and educate them at the farmer's market. We have \$4,000 in grant money to get started, and we are looking for more donations to help the program have the greatest effect. Our donation flyer has a QR code that will take them to a Riley County Health Department webpage that has a way to donate directly to the program. The money will be used to reimburse the farmers for the produce the children will be able to buy with tokens. The tokens will be earned by completing activities at the market. We also plan to put together tote bags with the logo. We are seeking businesses that might want to sponsor us in exchange for having their logo on the bag.

2. Donations can be made online or by mail. Our ask from you is to spread this information through your networks. Vickie will send the flyer to this group to share.
- iii. Educational programs for Senior Center and Pawnee
 1. These educational programs can be attended in person or seen via zoom. They will focus on nutrition.
- b. Waste CAT
 - i. Restaurant Champion Program
 1. Presenting the new logo for this program – screen share from Vickie.
 2. There is a list of 25 criteria for local restaurants to follow.
 3. If any of the restaurants are doing 5 out of 25 of the items, they can be considered part of the program if they want to participate.
 4. We plan to launch in June to coincide with restaurant week hopefully.
 5. Feedback?
 - a. Good logo, will catch the eye
 - b. Looks great
 6. We will have table tents with conversation starters about how the restaurant is working towards these goals.
 7. We hope this will be a small way we can both support our local restaurants and encourage people to eat local.
 - ii. Eisenhower MS initiative
 1. Their composting program is up and running.
 2. The group is creating a blog post and video for our website.
 3. Next year they want to serve as leadership to help other schools get up and running with a gardening and composting program – a train the trainer type program.
 - i. Jaden – will there be a need for volunteers for any of these projects? We are planning phase 2 for the Food Security Scholars, and are looking for community projects to work on.
 - ii. Vickie – yes, all of these projects we’re talking about today could use more volunteers.
- c. A group from Fort Riley is in need of compost for a greenhouse project. They are asking someone – potentially us – to make a formal request for the county to donate the compost.
 - i. Carol: it’s cheap from the county: roughly \$20 for a truckload.
 - ii. Adrian – thinks it’s appropriate for us to be the connection here.
 1. Adrian makes a motion to be the intermediary liaison between the county and the group at Fort Riley
 - a. Barta seconds the motion
 - b. All in favor. Did not note a vote either way from Josh Brewer
- d. Food Insecurity CAT
 - i. Community walk-in cooler/freezer
 1. Funding is available for a cooler/freezer, funds from a FHWC grant now allocated for this project and they are partnering with us. It would be right out the back door of the Family Child Resource Center. There is a classroom kitchen attached that might be used for food skills teaching and community meals. Currently the funds are being

- sought for the concrete slab and the electrical work. Riley County will need to approve the space.
- a. How can this be used? Food recovery for Common Table for example. Restaurant champion program, one element is food recovery/donation.
 - b. May/June timeline for completion of project.
- ii. Resource map brochures will now be on the ATA bus system in holders by the door. They will be in English and Spanish.
 1. If there are any other locations that need them, the flyer is on the website and is the most current version (version 4.15). You can print them and place them, or reach out to the council to start a discussion about somewhere they should be placed.
 - iii. Blessing Boxes
 1. 21 groups acknowledged that they did our “fill the box” challenge. Advanced Property Management won the \$100 gift card. This was a great online campaign to spread awareness for this project.
 - iv. Konza Student Table
 1. Great earned media about this recently
 - a. [Little Apple Post, Monday, April 12th – Konza Student Table](#)
 - b. [Collegian, Friday, April 16th – Konza Student Table](#)
 - c. [Manhattan Mercury, Friday 16th online/Sat 17th print – Konza Student Table](#)
 2. 10,000 meals were served by mid-March. We continue to add on new partnerships. Baking Science Club and Asian American Student Union have joined. Almost all the volunteers for Wednesday night service are K-State students.
 - v. Northview Rising update
 1. In a Substack called “Notes from Northview,” an article titled “NORTHVIEW ADVOCATES PUSH CITY FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY KITCHEN” quotes us as being supportive of the project, and that other organizations are getting involved as well. [Link to article.](#)
- e. Chronic Disease Risk Reduction Grant (CDRR)
 - i. Kansas Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (KSFMNP)
 1. Our goal is to increase awareness of the program and increase the number of seniors involved in the program.
 2. We have many seniors who are low income and are eligible, but don’t know about the program or have questions. The Farmers’ Market has a Double Up Bucks program that can be utilized by them as well to help the money go further at the market. We have a flyer for the program with all the information they will need, and we have volunteers who will go to the senior center and the housing developments.
 - ii. Shanika – We had money in CDRR grant that could be used for paid media advertising, so she has created click ads on Little Apple Post. We will be able to track traffic coming from Little Apple Post to the website. This ad campaign will run from April through end of May. Our first ad is to drive traffic to the Nourish Together website, and the next one will be about Kitchen Restore. The Kitchen Restore ad will send the user to information on how to get involved and donate. It’s an experiment to see how much traffic this gets us.
 - f. Website/Social Media

- i. Earned Media – all mentioned above. Vickie wishes there was a better way to share all of them regularly. Be sure to push out all of this information within your networks. Our capacity to reach more people throughout the area depends on us sharing the information.
 - ii. Jaden has put together a printable of business card sized QR code links to our website.
- g. New Partnerships – Manhattan Housing Authority
 - i. They would like to be involved in our survey for the Master Food Plan.
 - ii. We will have information about the organization for “needs beyond food” portion of the website. We have not received the information yet, but it will be posted as soon as possible.
- h. Food Security Scholars
 - i. Several of our committee members attended a panel with the Food Security Scholars at KState in the last week. Feedback from the conversation?
 - 1. It was a very positive learning and partnership environment.
 - 2. Great questions, good interactions, questions about master food plans. Connections were made. Led to understanding the scope of the programs in our community.
 - 3. Good feedback on the website – that it is important and well built
- i. Pathways Grant
 - i. Healthy Food RX. Program
 - 1. The program will run at/with WIC, Pawnee Metal Health, and Lafene Health Center.
 - ii. Food and Farm Council – intern opportunity
 - 1. Please reach out to Vickie if you know of anyone who would be a good fit for our internship program. We have not been able to find someone yet.
 - iii. Master Food Plan
 - 1. Even through the Master Food Plan concept was presented to the Commissioners during our report to them, we did not put it to a vote. We need to have this formally approved to be able to move forward and access the funding.
 - iv. HiAP training on 4/20. This is the train the trainer program. After completing the training, they will be able to help guide other groups in the community to use HiAP when make decisions/policy.
 - v. This presentation will be given at an upcoming meeting for our council as well.
 - vi. Goal is that a year from now we will have a community of decision makers who use HiAP.
- j. The Admin council has the opportunity to have a “Curbside Consulting” session with Mark Winne on Thursday, May 6th. We do not have a time scheduled yet. The focus will be on the Master Food Plan. We found great value in our last one that we participated in.
- k. FFC appointments come up in August.
 - i. We have some council members who are at the end of their tenure. Most have expressed a desire to stay on, but we will have one county appointment open starting in August. Jaden Castinado will be graduating, so we will have a student position open as well. There is an application on the city’s website - encourage people to apply if you know anyone who is interested and would be a good fit.
- l. For master food plan, we will need to gather information from the community. Vickie will be asking for your help in connecting to the people in your network. This will be similar to the interviews we did in gathering our partners. In all parts of your life, how are you connecting to different parts in our community? We need to get a diverse perspective to make the best plan for our community.

- m. Josh - update on MHK Crossroads: They felt that they did not receive enough feedback to be representative of the diversity in our community. The plan needs to prioritize equity, and they feel that they need more input. They are especially looking to have more input from our Asian and African American communities, as well as people who are low income and those who rent in our area. Thank you to those who have participated in the survey.
 - i. Vickie – also wants to make sure that we have the input from these groups. How can we work together here?

Our next meeting will be Monday, May 17th, 11:30am.



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.