

Food & Farm Council of Riley County & City of Manhattan
July 18th, 2022

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In Attendance:

Carol Barta, John Green, Kate LaRosh, Mary Mertz, Jacquie Mack, Maureen Olewnik, David Procter, Adrian Self, Stephanie Smith, Kirsten Spear, Michael Wilson, Vickie James (FFC Coordinator), Shanika Rose.

Unable to Attend: Andrea DeJesus, Meghan Dougherty, Sharolyn Jackson, Joshua Brewer, Elias Martinson

Guests: Lizz Daniels

- Welcome and introductions of any guests, Review of the agenda
- Food and Farm Council applicants

Applications to sit on the Food and Farm Council board were submitted through the City of Manhattan or Riley County per the area of representation. The city and county informed the Food and Farm Council (FFC) Coordinator of timing for replacement based on FFC by-laws and applications were forwarded to the FFC Coordinator for review.

Mike Wilson applied for a 2nd term for his position and was reappointed.

Josh Brewer, Jackie Mack and Carol Barta completed their terms and will roll off the board.

Kristen Spear has not yet completed her term, but has moved out of the area and we will look to replace her.

Kate LaRosh was a student representative on the board and will be reappointed to a regular board position.

The Administrative Council met to review applications and their recommendations are now brought to the overall committee for approval. Approved names will then be submitted to the City or County commissioners for their final approval.

Applications put forward by the Administrative Council include:

Janette Gelroth. Janette works with Kitchen Restore and fits county at-large criteria – fill in Carol Barta's position.

Blake Druecker. Blake is passionate about local, healthy food and food recovery. He is interested in completing Kirsten's time on the board.

Liz Nelson is the Director of the Riley County Senior Service Center would fill the at-risk role that Jackie Mack is leaving.

Lizz Daniels. Lizz is a recent graduate in nutrition from KSU and would fill the City at-large position being vacated by Josh Brewer.

David Procter moved that the slate of board candidates be approved, Mary Mertz seconded the motion. The list was unanimously approved.

- Council survey and year-end review

Tufts University is working with survey – please complete if you have not done so yet. We will get results from the survey back in a month or two. Deadline for completion of the survey is 7/18/22.

Vickie asked for feedback on the survey questions.

Relationship to the government was an oddly worded question. We are government related because we fall under the county health department. However, we have no funding from the government entities. But we do have resource support from government groups, e.g. participation from Shanika Rose, Elias Martinson, etc.

The food recovery network was referenced as a major step forward for the group. Our community outreach is continually increasing.

Support of infrastructure was an area that was discussed.

- Discuss for the new year and our process (Continued in August)

Accomplishments and challenges – Beginning September 1, Vickie will relinquish many of her current activities. Questions to consider: How do we move programs forward with these changes? Who can write grants? The board needs to consider how we continue with leadership activities in a different way. We should all come to the August meeting or send before the next meeting, with ideas on shifting and changing the way we do this work.

Areas to consider:

Master Food plan is a solid document and needs to be made actionable.

Ex. Recycling, Commissioner Ford is supportive. How do we retool and repackage a group to help on this CAT?

What did we do right this year?

Power of Produce program - averages about 100 children and parents and grandparents in providing nutrition education, financial understanding, etc. This program has solid leadership week by week. We need donations to reimburse the farmer's market.

KS Sr. Farmers Market nutrition program in addition to the plus double up program provides substantial food resources for in need seniors. Riley County is doing a great job in getting Seniors signed up for this program. We are looking at increasing the number of Seniors and making sure that they go to market and use the vouchers. The effort has a positive impact on economic development of the market as well .

Kitchen Restore is going well and has good leadership.

Konza Student table in transition and Vickie will stay with it for now until it is stable.

Flint Hills Food Recovery has been launched.

Healthy Prescription Program – Vickie still rights reports, but the program runs itself well.

- Community Action Teams (CATS); Master Food Plan:

CAT teams represent the F&FC – we need to make sure that we are involved in the activities.

We will hold a strategic plan discussing at the August meeting (Monday, Aug. 15th).

At this meeting, we will elect officers – as Vickie backs away, chair and chair-elect will have to take on more responsibility and a secretary will also have to be identified. These are all members of the Administrative Council, which reviews ongoing activities and concerns and sets the agenda for the general board meetings. Board members that area interested in working on the Administrative Council should get in touch with Vickie.

- Master Food Plan:

We will need help in identifying ‘low hanging fruit’ in the plan, the things that can be done quickly at relatively low cost. We need to understand how the city/county want programs designed in moving them forward.

Included here is a link to approved Manhattan/Riley County Master Food Plan – <https://nourishtogether.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/2022Final-Food-System-Master-Plan-6.13.22.pdf>. Vickie will bring hard copy of the plan to the August meeting.

- ATA Bus passes:

Mike Wilson noted that free bus passes should be given out to any that need them. Passes have been given out to several groups including Be Able, Common Table, Mesi, Bread Basket, Shephards Crossing, etc. for distribution to those in need. Information on ATA bus transportation capability is also provided to international student group – ATA provides information to students on how to use and where to get vouchers. Mike stated that the KSU International Resource Fair is the most impactful group that he interacts with. True colors for young people – Mary Hardeman would also be a good place to share passes.

The Konza Student Table Wednesday evening meal provision may be another good place for handing out vouchers and/or information on ATA bus transportation.

Afghan refugees could use more passes. Their office is located in Flint Hills Place and Susan Adamchak may be a good resource to help in getting that information to the group.

The Pathways to a Healthy Kansas Initiative will hold a series called Coalition Compass, designed for Pathways communities. The series will strengthen coalitions and assist in guiding them forward. The series of online workshops are for individuals and teams engaged in their communities Pathways work. FFC is a recipient of funding from this group and can attend this series.

- Final reminders:

Please complete the Tufts survey

Our next meeting will be August 15th
Let Vickie know if you would like to serve on the Administrative Council next year
Review the Master Food Plan and come to the next meeting prepared to discuss and
prioritize activities.

Meeting adjourned – at 12:55.



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What do each need and how do we establish leadership?

Do we need monthly meetings – if not how do we stay on track?