

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY LOCAL FOODS POLICY COUNCIL

MINUTES

October 22, 2014, 5:45 P.M.
BROOKENS ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
JENNIFER PUTMAN ROOM

PRESENT: Zach Kennedy; Becky Roach; Tod Satterthwaite; Mel Farrell; Maya Bauer; Patti Petrie

1. Call to Order—5:45pm
2. Additions/Corrections to the Agenda—None
3. Approval of Minutes—Minutes of Sept. meeting approved
4. Public Participation—Should we add another item “Report of County Board Liaison” to our agenda? Probably a good idea.
5. Old Business
 - a. Rantoul Food Hub report

Heard by Tod at the Local Foods Symposium today [UofI]: Chanute Fields LLC has had its first meeting. Acreage leased from the Village to LLC—LLC leases to farmers at \$175/acre per year [1/2 price]. Applicants must have a business plan, stressing resale of their produce [not just backyard gardeners]. If you lease property, you must buy 1 share of the LLC at \$1500. Farmers must also abide by certain protocols, but they also get amenities [water; soil profile; hub access, etc.]. Student farm is making 18-10K on sweet corn. Message is: this is for serious farmers. At present about 7-10 are interested. Option for shared equipment is still being studied. Liability coverage is very high. Discounts for bulk rentals, subcontracting and other options being considered as well. This project has come a long way. Kudos to the Chanute Fields board. Plan for a Rantoul Farmer’s Market is being fleshed out. Roman Foxx [Rantoul Ag Educator] will do his 2 acres for next year.
 - b. Dining Services/local food report

Email from Chris—He attended “Meet the Buyers” event. Made some connections for beans and squash. Made connections with Heartland Meats in Mendota, IL. Specialize in Piedmontese beef, grass-fed, non-GMO silage finish.

Dining Services will be taking more meat from UofI Meat Sciences. The Dining Services Food Truck is relaunched, focusing on local products and craft sodas made at the pilot plant on campus.

c. Discussion of Farmer Survey

Questions: what is our area of survey. What other counties? E. Central Illinois. Patsi suggests using Champaign as a pilot. What use of the data—to get a snapshot of the current situation for local food production. Defining “local” market as the one CGFC uses. Merge 2 and 3. Last question, forward link AND/OR let us know. So next: Get it printed; Set up Survey Monkey. What is incentive for farmer? #18, but we need more. For expansion question add a focus: restaurants; schools; expand into livestock. Forward answers to appropriate persons [#11 to Brad, e.g.]. #10 [E.g., leasing more land; participating in educational outreach; processing hubs]. Discussion: if we’re only doing CC, small number of folks, then maybe a personal interview. Ask them “What do you think are the obstacles to local farming”. We need a cover letter writer. Draft will be done by committee next meeting at Farm Bureau. Brad and Tod will assemble the brief list of farmer’s names, farms, addresses for the CC pilot.

d. Website discussion

Oops! The link doesn’t work. Did we not pay site hosting fee? Maya will follow up with Michael P. Patsi will find out about the grant balance.

e. Brad update on conference call with Vanessa [from Chicago conference]. She is willing to consult with us further for action on school districts on incorporating local foods. Perhaps make contact with Superintendents? Perhaps have an invited meeting with stakeholders [K-12; READY; Urbana Unit 116; Regional Superintendent (Jane Quindlan); Mahomet].

6. New Business

Tod attended Local Foods Symposium. Obstacles/Solutions for local farmers. Access, processing other issues brought out. Report from the UofI is forthcoming. About 60 attendees [out of a massive invitation list].

7. Legislative Update

8. Announcements

Anyone carpooling to Bloomington? “Local and Regional Food Summit” event? Nov. 13. Zach will let Patsi know.

Brad—Coordination with IL Farmer’s Market Association. Networking opportunity. Let’s look into that for the future. Zach will look into dates for November use of

Brookens and Brad will contact the IFMA.

Friday Forum Topic at YMCA for Spring will be “Food Justice”. Suggestions are welcomed. Patti: Lou Turner’s involvement with transportation on the So. Side of Chicago [food deserts in far south side of city—African/American Studies].

9. Adjourn—next meeting is Nov. 12. Meeting end at 6:25pm