

Champaign County Local Foods Policy Council
Minutes of Meeting: July 25, 2012

Members Present: Tod Satterthwaite, Becky Roach, Cathe Capel, Chris Henning, Lisa Meid Hamelberg, Zach Kennedy, Sarah Riddle, Pius Weibel (*ex officio*)

Guests: Pattsi Petrie, Hal Barnhart, Norman Stenzel, Robin Arbiter, Rajesh Karmani

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Kennedy and seconded by Roach to approve the minutes from the meeting of June 12, 2012. There was no discussion. They were approved unanimously by voice vote.

Public Participation

Robin Arbiter of the Lierman Neighborhood Action Committee provided information on her organization, which is composed of residents working toward improving their neighborhood, located across Washington St., just southwest of Brookens. She discussed details of the planned improvements and invited us to a service day for their community garden space on August 25, as well as the dedication of that project on September 8.

Discussion of Champaign County LESA

Norman Stenzel, a retired Champaign County farmer, and Hal Barnhart, currently farming in Champaign County, provided details on how the LESA draft could be improved to protect land that could be used for producing local foods. Both submitted drafts of their statements to the committee.

The committee began the process of drafting a resolution to send to the ZBA.

Pius provided information on the correct way to proceed.

Discussion of Local Food Producers Inventory

The current list of resources was discussed, and Sarah agreed to create a spreadsheet that will combine local producers on the following lists.

Vendors from Urbana's Market at the Square
Buy Fresh Buy Local Directory
Vendors from Common Ground Food Coop
Market Maker website
Local Harvest website

The committee discussed how the spreadsheet could be used, which led into the discussion of the survey.

Discussion of Local Food Producers Survey

Committee discussed possible questions, as well as sources for surveys used in other locations that we could use instead of inventing a new one.

Announcements

Tod encouraged members to register for the local foods summit in Bloomington that will be help August 20, 2012, from 9 am to 4 pm.

Zach mentioned the new Beginning Farmer Training Program being offered through University of Illinois Extension. It is a one-year program, and it is funded by a USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Grant. Applications will open soon.

Other Business

None