

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY LOCAL FOODS POLICY COUNCIL

Minutes of the OCTOBER 24, 2012 Meeting

Members Present: Tod Satterthwaite; Rebecca Roach; Mary Ellen Farrell; Christopher Henning; Zach Kennedy; Brad Uken; Maya Bauer; Cathe Capel [briefly]

Guests: Patti Petrie

1. Call to Order—Meeting called to order at 5:45pm
2. Minutes of 10/10/2012 approved
3. No members of the public were present
4. Discussion of ways to protect agricultural land from development—This was the major agenda item and the discussion was focused on this topic.
 - a. Discussion began with background and history on Ag Areas in the state of Illinois: how to declare; how the acreages “run with the land”; how it spans a 10 yr. duration, after which it must be re-apped.
Currently most declared Ag Areas are concentrated in south and NW corners of the state. Landowners are reluctant to declare as it is seen as a decrease in the land value. The benefit of it is that it could be deemed “the right thing to do” in the preservation of these areas. The declaration of the Olympian Drive acreage is NOT an option as it lies with the ETJ.
 - b. Some cities/states have been more aggressive in declaring these protected areas. E.g., Portland, OR and the Northeast corridor with land trust purchases.
 - c. The Illinois Local Food, Farm & Job Council could be valuable insofar as they:
 - i. Perform asset mapping
 - ii. Manage data
 - iii. Expand training programs
 - iv. Attempt to increase state procurement
 - v. Define regulatory barriers
 - vi. Facilitate awareness campaigns
 - vii. Manage financial resources
 - d. What could the LFPC do to escalate the issues? Possibility of adding additional factors to the RRO [factors that ZBA consider when developing its recommendations]. One of which could be declaring a land’s potential for local food production. What about looking at things from a municipality perspective [as opposed to an agricultural one]? Take a look at things that Rantoul is doing in their re-development of the federal properties it has received.
Educating instead of proposing. Getting the ZBA to examine smaller plots of ground that would be good for local food development. Brad will talk with some municipal planners [Bruce Knight?] about some possibilities for LFPC input. Let’s think about having a student work on this. Also invite Wes Jarrell to a meeting with us.
 - e. Brett and Tod will be meeting to discuss his project.
5. The meeting adjourned at 7:05pm