

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY LOCAL FOODS POLICY COUNCIL

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 12, 2014, 5:45 P.M.
BROOKENS ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
JENNIFER PUTMAN ROOM

Present: Zach Kennedy; Cathy Capel; Maya Bauer; Mel Farrell; Brad Uken; Steve Herriott; Becky Roach

Guests: Patti Petrie

1. Call to Order—5:45 by Zach Kennedy
2. Additions/Corrections to the Agenda—None
3. Approval of Minutes—January 22nd approved
4. Public Participation—Pattsie encourages us to move forward on the Guest Commentary. Also timeline for renewal of LFPC is being investigated.
5. Old Business
 - a. Guest Commentary progress—Still working on it. Cathe will check with Tod about next steps. Coming soon.
 - b. Rantoul Food Hub report—Brad reports that meetings are happening every other Thursday. “Grant Helpers” will be giving advice. Community meeting in March/April. Shooting for target of March 1 to have first land contracts available. Brad will try to connect with “Farm Beginnings” class at PFF on March 8 to inform new farmers about possibilities. Advertising routes are being investigated in various venues: Parkland; FFA; Lincoln Academy; May 1 deadline for setup of micro-processing plant. They also plan to have a presence at the July 4 through Labor Day Farmer’s Market in Rantoul. Still moving forward for 2014 growing season.
 - c. Dining Services/local food report—None
 - d. Discussion of Focus Group meeting
 - i. What insights did we find that are valuable to us?—Good meeting and discussions: Emphasize the assets of our region; potentials for extending seasons; balancing wealthy and poorer factions’ needs. Much talk about

producing a document on the economic benefits of local food. Need for political and county support. Discussion on the reality of the multipliers that should be applied.

- ii. What direction would we like to take as a Council based on the Focus Group input?—Using research and fast facts to create a climate that supports local food. Facilitating connections and communication between groups who are working on various local food initiatives. Use the US Ag Census. They considered the work on our website as a valid course of action. Should we amend our “List of Activities”? Look at our website for improvements. Encourage educators to pursue research by their students, etc. Calls to action: 1) “Fast Facts” white paper. 2) A farmer’s survey. 3) Pursue avenues with Aramark to get into schools and their food policies. Convince bodies that a commitment to a percentage of usage local food is important. Next meetings focus to determine how to get going on these three things.

6. New Business—None

7. Legislative Update—Farm Bill passed. Beginning farmers and ranchers programs will continue. Conservation stewardship still supported though funding decreased. “2 for 1” Farmers Market SNAP program continued, though financial support for total SNAP program was cut. FSMA: 2nd comment period now open. Considering some specific issues: water quality; standards and testing; mixed use facilities.

8. Announcements

Greater Peoria Regional Food Summit, Feb. 22, 9-1:30

Farmer Appreciation Day at CGFC on 2/14

Cathe attended a “Food Forest/Permaculture” workshop

“From Garden Gates to Dinner Plates”. To get into producing foods for Farmer’s Markets [Cottage Industry Bill]. At Extension Office Feb. 24, 6:30pm.

Illinois Stewardship Alliance to tackle Farmer’s Market legislation

Donovan Finn thesis on “Big Small All” analysis and Burnham Project. Check it out.

9. Adjourn—6:45pm