

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY LOCAL FOODS POLICY COUNCIL

MINUTES

JUNE 11, 2014, 5:45 P.M.

BROOKENS ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER

JENNIFER PUTMAN ROOM

PRESENT: Mel Farrell; Maya Bauer; Becky Roach; Steve Herriott; Chris Henning; Brad Uken

GUESTS: Sue Smith; Patsi Petrie

1. Call to Order—5:48pm
2. Additions/Corrections to the Agenda—Talking about expanding group/elections, etc. We don't have representation from food vendors/manufacturers—e.g., Sysco.
3. Approval of Minutes—minutes of last meeting 5/28 approved
4. Public Participation—Patsi and recycling food scraps program for economic development. There is a scheduled meeting of stakeholders on 6/27, noon to 1:30 at CGFC. Economic possibilities of hemp growing in Champaign Co. is coming back on to the radar. Perhaps we can send one of our memos of support????? HB 2668, Industrial Hemp Act. ISA is supporting it.
5. Old Business
 - a. Rantoul Food Hub report—Brad's update: continuing to make progress. Firing of village administrator was a setback, but back on track now. Establishment of packing house is moving forward. Need a cooler. Have \$7,000 toward that. Working with FFA produce for grading, sorting, etc. Good experience for the kids in the program. Involvement with government bodies slows operations a bit, frustrating at time, but interest has not waned. Maybe have some one-time events this summer: 4th of July; Back-to-School, etc. Truth about the chemical contamination is hard to divine. Other chemicals being tested for are coming back negative. Fact that Rantoul denied becoming a SuperFund site probably clouds reality to some extent.
 - b. Dining Services/local food report—Chris spoke about things. Lots of retirements are impinging on operations. Couple of projects with EPA 1) Food waste and recovery challenge. Set baseline/weights and set goals for next year. Hierarchy of disposals: mitigate; donations; digesters; student farm composting. 2) Arthur

food auction is gearing up, as is the Student Farm. Cooking now with leafy greens and kale, etc. Food truck is operating on the South Quad, for conferences in the summer. This Fall it will be open for business. DS will be servicing the athletes via the DIA. Moving towards MSC certified seafood.

- c. Discussion of Farmer Survey—postpone till next meeting

6. New Business

- a. Report from the Homer Farmer's Market—Sue Smith suzanne56smith@gmail.com told us about the current status of the Homer FM. Goal is to “have fun”. Leave Coal out of it. It's a divisive issue and looms over the town. Let the Market be a positive rallying point for the town. Sue handed out info flyers and brochures. Greens, asparagus, hay mulch, some cottage foods now available. Went over evolution of the market. Rural areas becoming “food deserts” perhaps. [See handout]. Would like to see more promotion and advertising [\$\$\$\$]. Maybe a coordinator for grant writing. Chose weekday to minimize Saturday conflicts [other markets; sports, etc.]. Susan Forsyth is the village contact.

7. Legislative Update

- a. Recommendation letter for legislative issues template review—Maya's template was reviewed. We should move forward on a target amount/how often. 3 to 5 in 6 months would be a good goal. Maya can send, but we all should keep ears to the ground.

8. Announcements

- a. Common Ground Food Co-op announced that its Board has given the go-ahead to a second location in central Champaign. Construction/prep to begin in 2015 and opening late that year. Site will be named in Fall 2014.
- b. I had to leave the meeting early. Not sure of other discussions or announcements. I assume because of the agenda addition [see above], that discussions about elections, expansion of the group occurred at this time.

9. Adjourn—Not sure of exact adjournment