

# CHAMPAIGN COUNTY LOCAL FOODS POLICY COUNCIL

JULY 23, 2014

BROOKENS ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER

JENNIFER PUTMAN ROOM

The meeting was called called to order at 5:47.

Members present: Chris Henning, Brad Uken, Zach Kennedy, Rebecca Roach, and Cathe Capel

Members absent: Maya Bauer, Tod Satterthwaite, Steve Herriott, Mel Farrell.

Others present: Pattsy Petrie

Cathe volunteered to act as secretary

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

Minutes from the previous meeting were presented. Motion for approval by Brad, seconded by Chris. There were no corrections. Minutes were approved by voice vote.

## Public Participation

Pattsy mentioned that she'd sent information via email to the council about local food activities around the country. A producers' marketing coop is forming in the Bloomington area. Cathe will contact Dave Bishop, one of the growers involved, and ask him to come to a meeting to discuss the project.

## Old Business

Rantoul Food Hub report: Brad Uken

Brad reported that they are continuing to make progress.

They hope to have a lease by September. A law student working at Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance is working on land lease for farmers. The Village of Rantoul will still need to approve it, and the steering committee is hoping to have the lease completed by September 1, 2014. They hope to discuss it with farmers in October.

They are also working to develop a self-governing coop that will lease land from the village and manage the food system and leases.

## Events Scheduled:

Rantoul FFA will be serving lunch to the village board and the community of Rantoul on September 27.

On September 30 from 2:00 - 3:30, The Steering Committee will hold a "Meet the Buyers" activity. Buyers, caterers, groceries, restaurants will be invited

to participate. The steering committee will introduce the concept of the Food Hub and hold a press conference.

The micro processing plant is up and running. FFA is using it for their produce. It is being used mostly for cleaning, processing, and storing of fresh vegetables.

#### Dining Services/local food report: Chris Henning

Brian is working with Purchasing to purchase packaging equipment for pilot plant for the vacuum pack/freezing project so Dining Services can use a greater volume of produce from the Arthur Produce Auction and the Student Sustainable Farm.

One of Chris's chefs is participating in the Farmer/Chef collaborative sponsored by Illinois Stewardship Alliance. She provided Chris with info on Local Flavors, Buy Fresh Buy Local, and a list of growers and what they produce. He offered to provide the information to the rest of the Council.

#### Farmer Survey

Cathe will check for the latest version and send it out to council members for review. Members will provide comments at the next meeting.

#### New Business

Brad saw the movie Growing Communities at the Art last night. Big Grove provided appetizers, and Dr. Knight from Carle spoke about health issues and nutrition from his perspective as a former emergency room doctor. Nicole from Prosperity Gardens (PG) conducted a discussion afterward.

PG is now separate from Lincoln Land Legal Assistance. They have requested access more land and a building from the City of Champaign. Possibilities include land at Randolph and Bradley, as well as the Evidence Building next to the gardens. Another possible sight is near Herff Jones. A fish farm, vertical agriculture, and high tunnels are all in the long-term plan.

#### Small-town and Village Farmers' Market Sustainability

The Homer farmers' market presentation was discussed, and the Council expressed concerns that small town and village markets might not be sustainable.

Markets in the area that we know of include the following.

Urbana Market at the Square: Saturday morning

Country Fair (Kleiss's midweek market): Wednesday

Danville Gardens (a gentleman from Arthur): Wednesday and Sunday  
Fluid Event Center: Sunday  
Homer: Wednesday evening  
Prairie Fruits Farm and Creamery: Wednesday  
Student Sustainable Farm: Thursday. 3-5 at the farm, 11-3 on the Quad  
Mahomet, Ogden, and St. Joseph were all mentioned

Chris will check out Student Sustainable Farm market

The Council decided to add a list of Farmers Markets to the website, including days, times, and contact person.

The council also decided to bring the FM groups together to discuss improving chances for success. Someone from the Illinois Farmers' Market Association could be invited to give a presentation. Possible topics include trends, legislation, organization, sustainability, strategies for success, and funding options among others. **Council members should bring a list of markets they know of, when they are held, and contact information for someone at the market to the next meeting.** Planned date is mid October. Zach will contact Deb Busey for room availability weeks of Oct 13 and 20. Brad will contact Farmers' Market Association.

Pattsi suggested looking at the Regional Planning Commission website to check for small grants.

#### Expansion of Council

The Council has been considering expanding to include Pattsi as an ex-officio voting member. Cathe made a motion to do so, Brad seconded, and the change was approved by voice vote. Zach will contact James Quisenberry for advice on how best to proceed.

#### Advisory Group

Council discussed Mary Davis's comments. She attended the advisory group meeting representing Unit 4. Council went on to discuss possible strategies for increasing the amount of local food in school meals.

The Council decided they will invite local school officials to the next meeting. Chris: will check with St. Joseph School System, and Zach will contact Nicole from the Ready School about talking to us at the next meeting. Becky will contact Mary Davis from Unit 4 and ask who we invite to the next meeting for a discussion (351-3852, [davisma@champaignschools.org](mailto:davisma@champaignschools.org)). Becky will invite that person to attend the next meeting.

There was no legislative update, nor were there any additional announcements.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.