

# CHAMPAIGN COUNTY LOCAL FOODS POLICY COUNCIL

## MINUTES

August 27, 2014, 5:45 P.M.  
BROOKENS ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
JENNIFER PUTMAN ROOM

**PRESENT: Cathe Capel; Mel Farrell; Maya Bauer; Becky Roach; Chris Henning; Steve Herriot**  
**GUESTS: Nicole Bridges**

1. Call to Order—5:48 by Chris Henning
2. Additions/Corrections to the Agenda—Item 4a: Two speakers from Unit 4 are not attending
3. Approval of Minutes—Minutes of 7/23/2014 approved
4. Public Participation
  - a. Mary Davis and Laura Dees – Champaign Unit 4 School District—not present
  - b. Nicole Bridges – Prosperity Garden & READY school  
Nicole from Champaign; degrees in Ag Communication; time in Peace Corps. Took an Americorps position with Land of Lincoln and worked with Val McWilliams to form the concept of the Prosperity Gardens and to create the Board to drive the operation. Currently she is full-time with UofI Extension/Urban Agriculture and directs the PG program.  
Info about the organization: Mission to provide healthy food at an accessible price. Non-profit, 2.5 yrs. Old. 32 raised beds on once-vacant city lots. This year 33 varieties of vegetables. Biggest partnership with READY program [Alternative school]. Serves as a worksite and employment opportunity for both READY and regular summer youth employment program. Students work in garden and in the market stand and learn math; entrepreneurship; social skills, etc. Sola Gratia is also a partner and source of produce for the lunch program. Grant funding comes from Provena and Amer. Cancer Society—nurse is hired to provide nutritional information and medical and health information and support. READY curriculum includes ag and horticulture program “Farm to School”; Culinary instruction and meal preparation for the students. There is a curriculum coordinator for the Prosperity Garden housed within the READY school. Vegetables grown early April to early November. They have some season extension [low hoops]. This year a mobile market bus is being launched to get veggies to neighborhoods in need—pay what you can. Would like to expand

beyond the 32 raised beds and start a CSA. A 2 acre plot has been located at Champaign and North St. that belongs to City of Champaign. PG is in process of getting some of it to lease. Vertical Garden in planning in the Illinois Terminal stairwell. Also negotiating for the vacant police building extant to the gardens on First St. Wanting to develop for offices, classrooms, commercial teaching kitchen, prep spaces. Trying to create a curriculum vocational track for the Unit 4 classes [Ag; Culinary; horticulture; nutrition etc.]. Chris offered info on the local chapter of ACF's effort to make "Soul Food" healthier. Nicole will check into that. PG is just getting started and hopes to expand programs throughout the community. [See brochure].

## 5. Old Business

- a. Rantoul Food Hub report—Brad not here
- b. Dining Services/local food report  
Know Your Food Event at dining halls, Sept. 3-4.
- c. Discussion of Farmer Survey—postponed to next time

## 6. New Business

## 7. Legislative Update—Maya brought a hand out

## 8. Announcement

There will be a Food Hub discussion at CGFC in near future. Participants are Sola Gratia and some folks from other counties nearby

Cathe attended the webinar on new rules for Farmer's Markets. Cathe mentioned her work with the Homer folks and the frustrations being encountered [power plays] and Public Health District

Lively discussion of C-U Public Health Dist. and recent publication of specific workplace violations.

## 9. Adjourn—7pm