

Food & Farm Council of Riley County & City of Manhattan

June 21, 2021, 11:30 am-1:00 pm ZOOM Meeting

In Attendance: Carol Barta, Josh Brewer, Jaden Castinado, Andrea DeJesus, John Green, Sharolyn Jackson, Jacquie Mack, Maureen Olewnik, Adrian Self, Stephanie Smith, Kirsten Spear, Michael Wilson, Vickie James (FFC Coordinator), Shanika Rose. Elias Martinson

Unable to Attend: Jennifer Morris, Megan Dougherty, David Proctor

Guests: Millicent Okyere

Meeting Recording:

https://ksu.zoom.us/rec/play/EDUqeUbD_yxOB9yJOnWtMYi3gZgfB_O519Z5gpqeBsHopWvDUefaNOtieRiuskLT7pJiW_298hPwLPe.mBbaZ4z6hHJQk2AH?autoplay=true&startTime=1624293133000

1. Updates

a. Education CAT

i. Farmers Market – Power of Produce

1. Volunteers are needed 8:15-11:15 on Saturdays at the Downtown Farmer's Market.
2. This weekend was cucumber and pickle taste testing as well as a reading project. Andrea says that it's been a great success so far, and is building good life skills including money counting. She's had to remind a few families that the program ended at 11am rather than the full time of the market. It's just too hot to have the volunteers out that long!
3. We didn't have a big fundraising campaign this time around, but next year it would be great to start fundraising in the winter to make sure that this program can continue and expand.
4. There are many community partners that have gotten involved already or plan to get involved in the upcoming weeks.

ii. Kansas Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program

1. A low number of seniors have participated in the past. Vickie identified barriers to participation and made a plan to increase this number this year. There is a team of volunteers that is helping the seniors sign up for the program.
2. Carol – someone from the program let Carol know that there are only 150 voucher opportunities for Riley County. She encouraged us to get these forms in as soon as possible.
 - a. Vickie – even if we go over the 150 number, there is the high possibility that other counties around us will have extra spots available, which can then go to our county. Keep getting people signed up!

b. Waste CAT

- i. Restaurant Champion Program
 - 1. John – we have a list of local food vendors (not just restaurants). Our goal is to reach out to these partners to review the criteria to be involved in the program. If they meet enough of the criteria, they are considered a participant of the program. This will be a way for the community to make smart choices about choosing restaurants and food vendors who are going above and beyond to make the best choices for the community and the environment.
 - 2. Vickie – they will be featured on our website in the same way that our farmers are featured. There is the possibility for table tents with QR codes for customers surveys as well.
 - c. Food Insecurity CAT
 - i. Konza Student Table - Summer volunteer needs
 - 1. We still need Wednesday volunteers – send a note to Vickie if you would like to help! You can also sign on to be a backup person if the sign up is full.
 - ii. Blessing boxes – Carol has had inquiries about what to put in the boxes when it’s hot out. Can we get an updated list with the items are better for summer months?
 - 1. Vickie – there is something on the Facebook page with this information. Vickie is also doing an interview soon with the Manhattan Mercury, and plans to go over all of this information.
 - 2. Sharolyn – dry products are best (noodles, cereal, oatmeal, mixes). Produce is challenging in the intense heat because it can spoil quickly and attract insects, which can ruin everything else in a box.
2. What’s Our Work?
 - a. Pathways Grant
 - b. Healthy Food RX. Program
 - i. Lafene, Pawnee mental health clinic, WIC are all partners. This is currently in process.
 - c. Farm Bureau grant opportunity
 - i. This is a grant that Vickie just heard about through our partners, Mary Mertz and Carol Shanklin. We plan to apply for this \$5000 award from KFB with a match of \$1500 from our local Riley County Farm Bureau to help with the Pathways grant.
 - d. Food and Farm Council –support staff!
 - i. Caitlin, Carleigh, Sydney K, Abby, Ally, Sydney C, Cheyenne
 - ii. Vickie now has 9 student volunteers that are helping out. She’s currently managing all of them, which is a big job! Supports the need for this to be a full time position with support staff.
 - e. Master Food Plan
 - i. Screen share from Vickie – the committee has created a “Food Plan goal/idea bank” with goals that we can potentially work into our master food plan. Some

of these ideas are borrowed from other master food plans, and some came from our committee members.

- ii. Community engagement “Take it to the People” (Places/spaces/contact leadership and what groups you want to help engage?)
- iii. Timeline/strategies
 - 1. We would like to have the survey ready by mid-August. We would also like to have popup events where the survey can be available to groups and targeted populations.
 - 2. We are not meeting in July to give everyone a small break. In August, we will be asking everyone to help with the surveys.

3. Shared Purpose

- a. Michael Wilson – ATA bus will be coming out with new routes in August. One of the new stops will be a Saturday morning Farmer’s Market stop.
- b. Everyone Counts, Saturday August 7th, 9am-1pm. This Thursday 12pm – 1pm planning committee via zoom. Vickie would like someone to attend the meeting to gather information.
 - i. Michael Wilson will be in the meeting representing ATA bus. He can represent us as well.
 - 1. We don’t have the dollars for swag. We will need to do the survey, maybe we can also do a drawing for a gift card for groceries.
 - 2. Jacquie might be able to get a basket donated for the event. Andea might be able to get something for a prize from DFM
 - 3. Andrea motions that we participate. Maureen seconds the motion.
 - a. Discussion?
 - i. Should we promote Double-Up Food Bucks at the same time? All of our current initiatives can be represented at the event.
 - ii. All in favor – unanimous vote.
- c. Northview Rising support for kitchen equipment
 - i. We voted unanimously to support that Northview Rising in asking the city to support the addition of a kitchen in the new Eisenhower community center, rather than having the neighborhood pay for it. They are asking us to sign the petition (they need 500 signatures)
 - 1. What our are thoughts on the impact of our signatures? Is there more impact if we sign individually or as a council?
 - a. Elias thinks we should sign as a council as well as individually.
 - 2. We also need someone who can go speak at the commissioner’s council tomorrow, Tuesday June 22nd, to speak for the council to give our support. The meeting starts at 5:30. The part of the meeting that someone would need to attend would be in the third part of the meeting, but Elias suggests that this person should arrive at 5:30 as he doesn’t know how long the first part of the agenda will last.
- d. 2 FFC positions open now for Sept 1 appointment – County

- i. Our two open positions are Rural and or healthcare – Jennifer’s role, and KState student – Jayden’s role.
 - ii. If you know anyone who would be a good fit for either of these spots, please direct them to the county’s website to apply or reach out to Vickie.
- 4. Until We Meet Again
 - a. Next FFC meeting date/location Monday, NO JULY MEETING – Next Aug 16th annual meeting – Hope to meet in person
 - b. Master Food Plan Leadership Team June 22nd, 1-2pm
 - c. FFC Adm. Council Monday, July 5th, 10:30
 - d. Food Insecurity CAT, Monday, NO JULY MEETING
 - e. Waste CAT, Friday, NO JULY MEETING
 - f. Education CAT, Monday, June 28th 4pm NO JULY MEETING



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