

Food & Farm Council of Riley County & City of Manhattan

November 15th, 2021 11:30 am-1:00 pm, Extension Office Conference room, 110
Courthouse Plaza

In Attendance:

Carol Barta, Joshua Brewer, Andrea DeJesus, Megan Dougherty, John Green, Sharolyn Jackson, Kate Larosh, Mary Mertz, Jacquie Mack, Maureen Olewnik, David Procter, Adrian Self, Kirsten Spear, Michael Wilson, Vickie James (FFC Coordinator), Elias Martinson, Shanika Rose.

Unable to Attend: Stephanie Smith

Guests: Lee Crouch, "Daniel's iPhone" (We sent a message via zoom to try to identify who this is, but did not receive a response), Millicent Atta-Yeboah, Carleigh Melofehik, Emily Irsik

1. Housekeeping
 - a. Starting in December, it's a possibility that the boardroom at the Riley County Health Department will be available for meetings. We will still be able to provide zoom access.
 - i. Should we stay in the Extension Office Conference room or move to the Health Department meeting room?
 1. We should move to the new space, if possible, to accommodate guests and have more space for social distancing. We can keep the extension office as a backup if needed.
 - a. Maureen makes motion, David seconded. No discussion. All in favor.
2. Updates (CAT and Grant)
 - a. Waste CAT
 - i. Restaurant Champion Program
 1. We don't want to say it's stalled out, but we're having very little movement on it.
 - a. Email and phone calls are not working as well, we need to go to them to discuss the project in person.
 - b. We need to find out if they would like to be involved in our upcoming food recovery program.
 - ii. Waste update from the Summit
 1. There were good discussions at the summit about some of the projects we can be involved in. One was food waste, and how that can be part of city/county processes. Who would be interested, how would we manage it, how would farms purchase it?
 - b. FI CAT
 - i. Community-wide food recovery network involvement
 1. The cement floor is being poured for our fridge/freezer unit. The unit has been ordered and will arrive in March. An installation crew has been secured.
 2. The next step will be to establish the volunteer force that will operate the program. Manhattan Soup Kitchen may be involved, and we will be reaching out to coordinate more volunteer groups.
 3. We hope to use the Peine grant to facilitate this project.

4. Food safety training will be part of the training process needed for our volunteers.
 - ii. Food Security Scholars – Kate
 1. The FFC is supporting two groups of food security scholars. One group is working on the upcoming food recovery program, and the other is working on food education training. Kate and Adrian are sitting in on this work.
 - c. Education CAT
 - i. Kitchen Restore – Megan
 1. We’ve been asked by MART (Manhattan Afghan Resettlement Team) to partner with the Afghan resettlement efforts. We would provide kits for the families who are coming to Manhattan. This will help spread the word about Kitchen Restore, which will hopefully lead to more donations and community involvement in the future. We’ve already had a good amount of donations and volunteer requests come in. Harvester’s in KC has put together a menu that pantries can order food from that is culturally sensitive to the families. Peacefull Pantry, which is part of the Harvester’s network, is a local group that will be able to order and pick up the food.
 - a. Potentially 25 – 50 people total will be resettled here.
 - ii. Alternative Breaks Program - Megan
 1. We had a lull of donations to Kitchen Restore, but still had a large number of kits going out. Megan was approached by the Alternative Breaks program at KSU to help with donations.
 - a. Alternative Breaks is a student group where students who stay in Manhattan during traditional college break times participate in community service work.
 - b. The group developed a plan to have a kitchen supply drive in front of Hy-Vee. They raised \$200 and collected a trunkful of kitchenware. Megan thinks that duplicating this program can be helpful in the future, and it provided learning opportunities.
 - iii. “Cranksgiving”
 1. A group in town that organizes family-friendly bike rides hosted a “Cranksgiving” over the weekend of 11/13.
 2. Participants brought shelf stable foods for PeaceFull Pantry and kitchenware donations, and Megan will be picking up the kitchenware items this week.
3. Grants
 - a. BCBSKS Pathways to a Healthy Kansas Grant
 - i. We used this grant to fund the Master Food Plan, as well as the Healthy Food Prescription plan.
 - ii. It’s a very time-consuming grant for Vickie, as it involved quite a bit of paperwork and zoom calls.
 - iii. Mary Mertz – shared the Kansas Living magazine that featured the Healthy Food Prescription plan.

- b. Peine grant application submitted
 - i. We don't know if we'll get this or not, but we'll do the work anyway!
- 4. Master Food Plan
 - a. Summit debrief – feedback from the summit from council members
 - i. Andrea – thinks we need more space. It got a little loud
 - ii. Mary – very impressed by the group, who participated, good opportunity for lots of insight
 - iii. Vickie - Only 3 people who RSVP didn't come, but had 4 walk-ins. Had 3 elected officials in attendance.
 - iv. David – are there other rooms that we can use to move into breakout rooms?
 - 1. Possibly. We might need to pay extra to use them or spend more money on food to access them.
 - v. Michael – felt like we had good discussions and felt like we could have gone longer.
 - vi. Vickie – Using Google Docs in real-time rather than giant sticky notes was helpful! Highly recommends that we utilize this in the future.
 - vii. John – agreed with Michael that it could have gone longer.
 - viii. Vickie – all of this positive work continues to reaffirm that our work creates a network. This also keeps bringing more students to us who want community experiences in the food system. We will likely host the summit yearly or every 18 months to continue these conversations.
 - b. Timeline and next steps
 - i. Everyone who attended the summit gave their contact information. Our next step would be to send out a summary of points from the summit with information on how people can get involved.
 - ii. We had 2089 completed surveys. This is a very high return rate, and we nearly matched our demographic roles exactly. Thank you to everyone who did extra work to make these happen. We extend a big thank you to Aaron Estabrook who got the survey to individuals served by the Manhattan Housing Authority.
- 5. Policy Work
 - a. State food policy work and our position
 - i. Vickie participates in a monthly meeting with the Kansas Food Action Network. They have asked all Kansas food and farm councils to weigh in on six key issues they hope to work on in 2022. We need to discuss whether or not we support this work and what order of priority we would rate their six key issues.
 - ii. In the media recently:
 - 1. Laura Kelly was recently in the news about her desire to get rid of the state tax on groceries.
 - 2. Vickie spoke on KMAN on November 11th about the state's grocery sales tax issue.
 - iii. We would need to be very clear that in our FFC role, we cannot lobby but we can be advocates.
 - iv. Items of concern and priority order (#)
 - 1. Formation of state FFC (2)

2. Increasing snap involvement (4)
 3. Expanding WIC (3)
 4. Sales tax on grocery items (1)
 5. Review cottage food goods regulations (6)
 6. Increasing funding for farm-to-school functions. Local foods into children's meals. (5)
- v. Discussion
1. Kirsten - Who would own the work?
 - a. Vickie would receive the communications, and then connect the correct person in our network with the work.
 2. Josh - What would the work be?
 - a. Written testimony, oral testimony, letters support, talking to local officials.
 3. Carol – when they have hearings on these issues, just having people show up or having people contact their elected officials is extremely helpful. We can do this as a council, and we can educate our partners on why and how they can do this too.
- b. Josh moves that our Council work with KFAN on this state policy agenda items. Andrea seconds.
- i. Discussion
 1. Andrea and Kirsten – we don't want to take on more than we can handle. We already are thin on volunteers.
 2. David – who has the authority to establish a statewide FFC?
 - a. It wouldn't go through the legislature- it's through the Kansas Food Action Network
 3. Vickie – as long as we keep our commissioners informed, she thinks all of these are good policies to work on.
 - ii. Vote – those in favor of supporting the 2022 agenda?
 1. All in favor, motion carried
 - iii. Vote – all those in favor of adopting the above order of key issues?
 1. All in favor, motion carried
 2. Vickie will write the report to send, but she needs a statement about how our council cannot lobby from someone if their organization has one we can use.
- c. Healthy Food at Meetings Policy
- i. We don't have this policy. Vickie has worked on this in the past. We can build this and ask our partners to adopt it.
 1. We will work on this in January
- d. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy
- i. We started this but did not finish it. Focus groups – what would be significant/what would this mean.
 1. We will work on this in January
6. Council roles – Vickie will be asking people to take on the jobs below at the next meeting/in the next months. She will be stepping away from some of this work when the Master food plan is complete. Please be prepared to get involved! This is not optional!
- a. Website work -

- b. Blogs
 - c. Food Recovery
 - d. CAT Leadership
 - e. Social Media
7. Until We Meet Again
- a. Next FFC meeting date/location, Monday, Dec 6th, 11:30am -1:00pm, Courthouse Plaza (NOTE THE CHANGE IN MEETING DATE OR DECEMBER. Meal included and agenda will be 2 presentations
 - i. New Venture Advisors with food survey and Summit data, plus progress on the Master Food Plan
 - ii. Presentations from the Staley School of Leadership Studies Food Security Scholars and their work with designing a work plan for community-wide food recovery and also education related to food insecurity needs.



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