

Food & Farm Council of Riley County & City of Manhattan

February 21, 2022, 11:30 am-1:00 pm, via ZOOM

In Attendance:

Carol Barta, Andrea DeJesus, Megan Dougherty, Sharolyn Jackson, Kate Larosh, Mary Mertz, Maureen Olewnik, David Procter, Adrian Self, Stephanie Smith, Kirsten Spear, Vickie James (FFC Coordinator), Elias Martinson.

Unable to Attend: Joshua Brewer, John Green, Jacquie Mack, Michael Wilson, Shanika Rose.

Guests: Miranda Miller-Klugesherz with Kansas Food Action Network. Eileen Horn with New Venture Advisors

1. Proposed wording to be added to the FCC bylaws:
 - a. “The Riley County and City of Manhattan Food and Farm Council shall be a member of the Kansas Food Action Network (KFAN) and shall participate in activities supporting the annual KFAN state food policy platform as feasible with time, capacity, and alignment with local food policy work. This shall exclude any activities that are a conflict of interest for Riley County/City of Manhattan including any lobbying efforts.”
 - i. Mary Mertz makes a motion to approve, Andrea DeJesus seconds
 - ii. All in attendance have approved. Advanced votes from John Green, Jacquie Mack, Michael Wilson were all in favor.
2. Kansas Food Action Network 2022 Policy Update
 - a. Miranda Klugesherz, presenting as Director from Kansas Food Action Network. Miranda is in attendance today to share policy updates.
 - b. Food Sales Tax
 - i. At the end of 2021, Governor Kelly announced her intention to ax the sales tax in 2022. For those not aware, Kansas has the second-highest food tax in the country, and only 6 states still have this tax on the books.
 - ii. There are currently 5 food sales tax bills out. All are slightly different.
 - iii. Shared screen: Kansas Action for Children website, KAC, link: https://www.kac.org/four_bills_introduced_to_end_the_state_sales_tax_on_food
 1. This page has easy to understand information about the differences between the bills and is a helpful resource if you need to talk to community members about this issue.
 - iv. The 5th bill is a house bill, and the biggest difference is that it’s not a complete elimination of the tax, but rather a slow phase-out. Half of the tax would be eliminated the first year, then the results would be analyzed before a further reduction would occur.
 - v. Vickie - which bill is this group leaning toward?
 1. It’s too early to say, and there could be amendments added that will need to be considered. They have until the end of the session

for it to pass. They're pretty much advocating for anything that eliminates the tax right away. Because it's an election year, and it was proposed by a Democratic governor, there is more contention than would usually be.

- c. There is currently an active House bill that addresses SNAP Benefit eligibility for people with drug-related felonies.
 - d. There is also an active bill addressing dropping child support cooperation as a requirement to get childcare benefits. Advocates are against the provision because it may require victims of domestic abuse to be in contact with their aggressor.
 - e. Kansas Food Action Network: Advocacy Day, March 16, 8 am - 2 pm in Topeka. This is an in-person event that will offer a chance to network with legislators and other advocates. If interested in attending, please sign up using this link: <https://forms.gle/1L3pYYrS9LiKWogq8>
 - f. If you are interested in keeping updated on this work, you can sign up for updates here: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/vOquuXP/kaw>
3. Food System Assessment/Survey Data Document
- a. Eileen Horn, presenting from New Venture Advisors with a Master Food Plan Update
 - b. Screen share update of the project
 - c. We are currently in the stage of the project where FFC and CAT members need to review the goals that have been created from the previous work in collecting information from the community.
 - d. Next steps
 - i. March 17th present food system assessment and covid impact video to city/county/county.
 - ii. March 1st - April 4th: John designs the final document
 - iii. April 5th - April 10th: final round of edits
 - iv. April 11th: submit to City/County/County.
 - v. April 17th – review Master Food Plan at City/County/County.
 - vi. The final presentation to City and County Commissions separately with request for adoption will be in May or June
 - e. Where did these goals come from?
 - i. The Food Plan Goals were agreed upon by the admin council and MFP leadership team with input from the survey respondents:
 - 1. Reduce hunger and food insecurity in the community and ensure access to healthier food for all.
 - 2. Invest in the production, sales, and consumption of locally grown food.
 - 3. Reduce food waste and related solid wastes.
 - ii. Education and outreach will be a theme woven into each goal rather than a standalone goal.
 - f. What were the data sources for this work?
 - i. Food system assessment
 - ii. Survey results

- iii. Summit themes
- iv. Language in other community plans:
 1. Riley County Solid Waste Master Plan
 2. Riley County Comprehensive Plan Exec Summary
 3. Manhattan DEI Report
 4. Manhattan Strategic Plan: Bicycle and Pedestrian Systems Plan
 5. Flint Hills MPO Transportation Plan
 6. Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan
 7. Manhattan Urban Area Comprehensive Plan
- g. Review considerations
 - i. Need: Does this address an existing community need or barrier?
 - ii. Community interest: Have we heard about this topic from the community, and do we have partners to work with?
 - iii. Impact: Does best practice suggest that this will help us meet our goal?
 - iv. Feasibility: Can we actually get this done?
 - v. Funding: Are there resources to support this work?
 - vi. Education: Did we weave this throughout?
- h. Feedback:
 - i. David: This is very well done, is representative of the issues we've been talking about, and does a great job distilling the information from the survey.
 - ii. Eileen will continue to take input until the end of the week. If you have not read the goals yet, please look at these three goals and provide either support, questions, or challenges this week. This needs to be done by Friday, 2/25, close of the business day.
 - iii. Access the goal documents for review here:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UBQS6zWelWeyrliN5_SeHw-YI8jUg9Jk
 - iv. Kirsten recommends that everyone adds their initials to the document so we know everyone has reviewed them.
 - v. Vickie: We need to make sure that our elected officials know that this is coming from the community - what in the language needs to be more specific to our community?
- 4. Covid impact video – watch and review
 - a. Maureen/David/Kirsten - Having the representation of so many parts of the food system is valuable.
 - b. Carol - It shows how resilient and adaptable the people of our town are.
 - c. Vickie - We had so many people offer to help with this, we could have made a 20-minute video. However, to keep the video an easily consumable length, we distilled it to 5 minutes.
 - d. We don't have the perspective of a consumer – do we need that?
 - i. Possibly in a follow-up video – we don't have anything along those lines recorded.
- 5. Community Recovery Network

- a. Update, timeline from Kate LaRosh
 - b. “Flint Hills Food Rescue” is the name they're leaning toward.
 - c. We are still anticipating an installation of the fridge and freezer in March.
 - d. While they wait for the equipment to be in place, they are working to develop policy.
 - e. They are considering using an app called ChowMatch to coordinate donations and volunteers.
 - i. The app has features that will be very useful for this purpose, including food safety training for volunteers.
 - ii. They are meeting with ChowMatch this Friday, 2/25.
 - f. Two food security scholars from K-State are helping this semester.
 - g. Title, Mission Statement
 - i. "Flint Hills Food Rescue is committed to bridging the gap between abundance and need by facilitating the rescue and transfer of edible food that would otherwise be discarded or go to waste. We work to efficiently connect this food directly to the local community organizations and programs where it can have the greatest impact.
 - h. Next steps – Use of FB and Nourish Together website
 - i. David – do we know yet who is owning this work?
 - j. Kate – this is still in process, and we are working with Be Able to support this process.
 - k. Maureen – this activity is very exciting – thank you, Kate.
6. East Campus meetings update – David/Carol
- a. Carol - It's still early days in the process. The 4th meeting was on Saturday. The committee that is spearheading the project is putting together notes from the meetings, and these notes will go out to the stakeholders. This group will receive the notes to see how we can fit into this plan. Early promises were made to the common table folks with what they can do with the building, but plans are still being made.
 - b. David - The leadership from the Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy came up with 4 potential uses for the building: a centralized location for Common Table, a space for social services to consolidate, a creative multiuse space for youth, and an event space. There is also the idea that it would be great if the spaces could be used collaboratively. They facilitated a group discussion about how the 4 potential uses could be combined in different ways.
 - c. Carol – after the conversations, no one spoke about the event space idea further. There was more focus on the space being used in a more community-minded way. She thinks there will be more discussion, especially after USD 383 figures out what will be done with the rest of the space.
7. Community Action Teams (CATs) Updates
- a. Waste CAT – no update
 - b. Education CAT
 - i. Megan - Not many updates since last time. We always meet the week after this meeting, so it's been a few weeks! We have a group doing regular

presentations at the senior center. We are always looking for volunteers for kitchen restore.

- ii. Adrian – is there a wish list online for items that are needed?
 1. An intern is helping with the Facebook page to keep up to date on needed items. If you would like to donate something before this list is updated, think about items that you use in your kitchen until they're dead: can openers, spatulas, et cetera.
- c. Food Insecurity CAT
 - i. Andrea DeJesus – At the last meeting, they went over all current work: East Campus development, master food plan goals, and the Flint Hills Food Rescue project.
 - ii. Vickie – We are specifically working on building up the volunteer network for this project, possibly using Facebook.
8. Vickie suggests that on months where the FFC meeting falls on third Monday holidays, we would move our meetings to the third Tuesday.
 - a. Stephanie Smith notes that the school district has staff meetings on Tuesdays.
 - b. We will have more discussion on this proposal at a future date.
9. Next FFC meeting date/location
 - a. Monday, March 21st, 11:30am-1:00pm, Location TBD



In accordance with provisions of the American Disabilities Act, every attempt will be made to accommodate the needs of person with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in and enjoy the benefits of our services, programs, and activities. Please contact the Health Department Administration Office (785-776-4779) for assistance.