

Food & Farm Council of Riley County & City of Manhattan

April 18, 2022, 11:30 am-1:00 pm,

Family and Child Resource Center, 2101 Claflin Rd.

In Attendance:

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

Unable to Attend: Megan Dougherty, Stephanie Smith.

1. Welcome, roll call, agenda review.
 - a. We took a group photo to be used in the Master Food Plan.
2. We would like to have a meal at our May or June meeting to celebrate our council members who will be leaving us this term. More details will follow.
3. We will plan to meet every 3rd Monday each month in person now at FCRC. A zoom option will be available. IF the Monday is a City or County observed holiday, our meeting will be held the following day on the 3rd Tuesday. (This occurs in Jan and Feb each year)
4. Policy Work
 - a. BCBSKS Pathways Grant – FFC Implementation grant – Language for our bylaws. All FFC members received the documents one week prior to today's meeting.
 - b. These documents have been reviewed and approved by the Pathways grant technical assistance team.
 - c. As a reminder, any of our partners collaborating with events/meetings with the Council will be required to follow the healthy meals guidelines..
 - d. If we add these documents to our bylaws, they will be signed off by Shanika and Elias. They will then be added to our official bylaws.
 - e. A motion was made by Mary Mertz to adopt the following four document additions to our bylaws: Healthy Meetings, HiAP, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Kansas Food Action Network
 - i. Seconded
 - ii. Everyone in favor? All in favor. No opposed.
 - iii. Discussion:
 1. Carol Barta: The title of the FFC DEI statement should be written out as the title of the document, rather than being kept as an acronym.
5. Food System Assessment/Covid Impact Video /Master Food Plan
 - a. Thursday, April 21st, 4 pm, at County chambers. We will be sharing the results of the assessment and survey. Eileen Horn, New Venture Advisors consultant will be doing part of the presentation. Vickie has emailed out details with location, meeting times, et cetera.

- b. Thursday, May 19th, 4 pm, city chambers. Presentation of master food plan.
 - c. The next meetings following will be individual meetings with the city and the county for the adoption of the plan. Dates TBA.
 - d. Your attendance in person or via zoom is requested.
6. Flint Hills Food Recovery
- a. Update, timeline – Kate, John G.
 - i. Kate: the subcommittee has continued to work on establishing operational procedures. They are working with Chow Match to get the program up and running and are hoping to start by mid-May. They are also working on their online presence.
 - ii. John: The walk-in was installed on the concrete pad. They are currently working on logistics for procedures, the feasibility of exchanges, and food safety.
 - iii. Kate: we have found a volunteer from the community to be a coordinator for the project.
 - iv. Vickie: Not sure if the unit has electricity yet but soon. Common Table and Breadbasket are ready to be involved. The goal is to have one recovery system for the whole community, with many partners. This will reduce waste and get food to those who need it. We want to incorporate education into this work as well. Thanks to the committee for this work!
 - v. John: do we think the new leadership of Breadbasket is willing to do minimal handling of food?
 - 1. Vickie: we would need to have that discussion with them. The new leadership has made several positive changes already.
 - vi. Vickie: I will be sending out a “one-page” on volunteering with the recovery group. Please make sure to send this out to your networks.

7. UPDATES

- a. East Campus meetings update – David/Carol
 - i. David – has not heard anything more since the discussion last month.
 - ii. Carol: no official word from the appraiser’s office on the tax situation. As the school will no longer be a school site, there is the possibility that the building would be subject to taxation.
 - iii. John – has heard in a different meeting that the building would be used for one more year by the 9th graders.
 - iv. Carol: FIT closet, Shepherd’s Crossing, and other agencies might all go there. It would create a one-stop shop for community resources.
 - v. Vickie – this work is being done with grant money from Pathways. Possibly a one-stop for aTa bus as well. Some of the kitchen equipment if not will most likely be moved out.
 - vi. Carol – the food equipment is minimal but what would stay is a hood.
 - vii. David – Common Table is a 501(c)(3) organization and is able to apply for grants. Fundraising seems doable for this project.
- b. aTa Bus pass program – Mary

- i. Mary – Mike and herself sat in on an aTa bus zoom meeting on a program to distribute free bus passes. She did not present a plan for us as we haven't discussed it yet, but the Council would like to be involved.
 - ii. Mike – there are 9 agencies aTa bus is working with. He doesn't feel like this will cover everyone. They can give the passes to organizations that have connections to other agencies to distribute. FFC could be one of these organizations.
 - iii. Vickie – can we know who is already getting the passes so we don't double up? Then we can create a rotation for who is receiving them.
 - iv. Vickie – thank you for getting us involved and thank you to Mary for heading FFC involvement in this program.
- c. Power of Produce – Vickie
- i. This is the program we started last year. It takes 6-8 volunteers per week. Volunteers need to be high school aged or older. The program runs from mid-June to mid-August each Saturday at DFM 9-11 am.. Children receive tokens for participation in food-education activities. Vendors have said that it's brought people to the market who have never been before.
 - ii. We need donors to help with the costs of supplies and for reimbursing the farmers for the tokens. 5-6k per Summer is our needed budget.
 - iii. IF you have a free Saturday, please consider volunteering, it's a great program!
- d. Community Action Teams (CATs) Updates
- i. Waste CAT – Not meeting currently
 - 1. Josh - Solid waste committee meeting on 4/19. Language for food waste, recycling was included by FFC some time back.
 - ii. Education CAT – Megan, Sharolyn
 - 1. Sharolyn – discussion about Power of Produce. Plans to create videos for fruit and vegetable education/prep. Extension is helping with this. Kitchen Restore is moving along. There is an ebb and flow with kits being requested, and no one has been able to identify a pattern.
 - 2. John – is there a way to capture kitchenware that's being thrown out at dorm move out time?
 - a. Vickie – this has been discussed with Bill Spiegel at the KState recycling center. Not sure if we can get this organized before the end of the school year.
 - b. John – it's surprising how much viable equipment is thrown away
 - c. Carol – students for environmental action might be able to get involved with this.
 - iii. Food Insecurity CAT – Andrea, Carol, Michael
 - 1. We're working on the Flint Hills Food Recovery – see update above.

- e. Meetings you may want to attend – Community Input Meetings – Shanika
<https://www.datacounts.net/rcchip/> (Link to all the currently scheduled in person and zoom meeting opportunities)
 - i. Shanika – there are community meetings currently happening, but so far, they have had only 40 participants. This is much lower participation than they wanted. As a solution, they plan to go to established meetings to present and get input from the community.
 - 1. They will go over 2015 accomplishments and the results of the community needs assessments from 2019.
 - 2. All the data is pre-covid. Now we need to go back to the community to see if things are the same or have changed.
 - 3. Vickie – how much time do they need?
 - a. Shanika – 1.5 hours. Presentation with discussion to follow.
 - 4. Vickie – what do we think about using our May meeting for this, and combining it with a special lunch?
 - a. All in favor.
- 8. Next FFC meeting date/location - Monday, May 16th, 11:30-1:00 pm, Family and Child Resource Center and a Zoom Option. A healthy lunch will be provided during our presentation and discussion regarding our local health system and needs.



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.