

**Bloomington Community Farmers' Market Advisory Council Minutes
for
February 16, 2026**

Attendees: Tracy Bruce, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Julia Fox, Ben Gardner, Michael Gleeson, Louise Miracle, Karen Saint Rain (Vice Chair), Kip Schlegel (Chair) and Edward Robertson

Absent: John Norton & Patricia Sigman

Parks Staff Present: Clarence Boone (FM Coordinator) & Camille Pushman (FM Staff Assistant)

- I. **Call to Order: at 5:35**
- II. **Approval of Minutes from January 12, 2026: *Minutes Approved***
- III. **Agenda**

A. Old Business

A-1 FM Timeline Updates & Important Dates in 2026:

Date	Action
2/20/26	All applications due (for any farm vendor wanting a reserved spot), Innovative Farm Vendor?, FBA RFPs and Food Truck RFPs
2/26/26	FBA Product Sampling
2/20-27/26	Notify farm vendors and FBA and food truck vendors of BCFM acceptance. Mail contracts, handbook, W9, market bucks guide, and optional demographic survey to approved vendors.
3/5/26	Space Reservation Meeting and possible New Vendor Orientation
3/20/26	Farm Vendors selling at FM need to have contract on file.
3/20/2026	Online and paper Vendor Profile submissions for the Market website due.
4/4/2026	BCFM Starts (April Pre-Peak)
5/2/2026	May-October Season Starts

A-2 FM Proposed FMAC Openings

- i. Effected members are: Ben Gardner, Tracy Bruce, and John Norton
- ii. Ben Gardner and John Norton desire to exercise the option to continue serving.
- iii. A discussion was held to see how Tracy Bruce can continue to serve as a Customer Rep. The prevailing view was to keep the Customer Rep. position for customer participants. An immediate way for Tracy to continue participation is via public attendance at FMAC meetings. He may still participate until the post is filled, and after a year cycle is complete, he can re-apply as an FBA Rep.

A-3 Possible Updates to Farmers' Market Mission Statement

- i. No suggestions received, so we have gone with the following:
 - 1. The Bloomington Community Farmers' Market mission now reads:
 - To strengthen our local agriculture and food community by serving as a venue to nurture the direct, positive relationships between small farmers, food and beverage artisans and customers;
 - To manage the Market as a gathering place where local farmers, markers, and neighbors come together to share the foods, traditions, and connections that strengthen our community;
 - To promote and improve food justice by implementing programs to increase access to Market products by people whose incomes are below the poverty threshold; and

- To improve local food security and community sustainability by fostering a resilient food supply.

B. New Business

B-1 Vendor Registration Updates as of 2-16-26 (*deadline is 2/20*)

- i. 83 Total: 56 Farm Vendors (April: 38) & 27 FBA (April: 15)

B-2 Upcoming Space Reservation Meeting (3/5) –Council Chambers & McCloskey Room

- i. Guest Presenters:

1. Peter McAninch - Environmental Health Specialist for Foods Div. w/ MCHD
2. Deborah Piston-Hatlen - Farm2Family
3. Pearl Bohon - WIC Overview and Vendor Training

B-3 2026 FBA New Product Sampling (2/28 @ 4 -6 p.m.)

As new prospective FBA vendors, they were invited to provide no more than five samples of up to two prepared food items. Afterwards, Market representatives will begin sampling based on the following criteria:

After an initial sampling, Taste all offerings, scoring each with initial impression.

- Potential to receive 1 to 5 stars
- Each product will be evaluated based on its merits
- Eventually, overall product balance will be factored in during a second tasting and scoring.
- A discussion on significant differences will be undertaken
- Consideration will be given to vendors that indicate a need for electrical/water and a willingness to alternate weeks or attend monthly

C. Public Comment – anything unrelated to agenda items

IV. ADJOURNMENT at 7:15 PM

NEXT MEETING: March 23, 2026 at 5:30 PM / Location: City Hall, McCloskey Conference (*First Floor # 135*)