

**Bloomington Community Farmers' Market Advisory Council Minutes**  
**May 18, 2026**

**Attendees:** Tracy Bruce, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Julia Fox, Ben Gardner, Patricia Sigman, Edward Robertson, Karen Saint Rain (Vice Chair), and Kip Schlegel (Chair)

**Absent:** Michael Gleason, Louise Miracle, and John Norton

**Parks Staff Present:** Clarence Boone (FM Coord.) & Camille Pushman (FM Staff Assist.)

**Public in Attendance** Lori Bolin and Robin Kitowski

**I. Call to Order @ 5:30**

**II. Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from March 30, 2026 accepted @ 5:35pm

**III. Agenda**

**A. Old Business**

**IV. Old Business**

**A-1 Social Media Stats: Parks & Rec Community Relations Team**

**April Facebook Stats**

- I. Views: 181,662
- II. Reach: 137,302
- III. Engagement: 1681

**April Instagram**

- IV. Views: 18,187
- V. Reach: 9,949
- VI. Engagement: 802

**B. New Business**

**B-1 May Farmers' Market Observations & Customer & Vendor Counts** (*denotes 2025 comparisons*)

- i. FM Stats for May 16<sup>th</sup> – Customers: 1,590 (4764) / Vendors 48 (58): (34 Farmers/14 FBA stormy at first then drizzly)
- ii. FM Stats for May 9<sup>th</sup> – Customers: 4,656 (3,771) / Vendors: 52 (56): 36 Farmers/16 FBA - Beautiful Day
- iii. FM Stats for May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Customers: 3,738 (3,138) / Vendors: 59 (53): (42 Farmers/17 FBA) Chilly Start
- iv. FM Stats for the month of **April** - Customers: **10,950** (7,491)

**B-2 Monroe County Parking Lot Enhancements**

- i. Slight challenges w/ parking over the next few weeks.
- ii. Some long-awaited hardscape and landscape improvement projects on the county side of the Showers property began this week. As part of that work, the county parking lot was closed this past weekend and possibly next weekend. At this time, weather conditions will likely determine length of closure.
- iii. (photos appear in Market Beet for 5-15-26)

### **B-3 Wi-Fi Connectivity Enhancements**

- i. Our Information Technology Services (ITS) Dept. shared before end of May, enhancements in Wi-Fi connectivity will occur within the parking lot.

### **B-4 Tentative WIC Voucher Distribution Dates**

- i. A representative will be present at the Market to handle clients from ~9:30-12:30pm on a few Saturdays in June, July, and August.
- ii. So far, the dates include June 6th, June 27th, July 11th, August 15, and August 29<sup>th</sup>

### **B-5 Update on FMAC Appointments**

- i. Robin Kitowski and Lori Bolin's pending appointment to the Farmers' Market Advisory Council requires approval by the Bloomington Parks Board. As an update, we were recently informed that, due to quorum issues, the meeting originally scheduled for May 21 has been combined with the Board's June 1 meeting.

## **C. Public Comment**

**C-1** Review of Severe Weather Policy w/ regards to Farmers' Market on 5-16-26

## **D. Adjournment @ 6:50 PM**

- a. **Next Meeting:** June 15, 2026
- b. **Location:** City Hall, Allison Conference Room #225, 401 N. Morton St. in Bloomington, Ind.

## Farmers' Market Advisory Council Members

| Advisory Council Member             | Appointed by                | Appointment Date | Term                 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Tracy Bruce                         | Board of Park Commissioners | 1/1/2024         | 1/1/2024-3/31/2026   |
| Carolyn Calloway-Thomas             | Board of Park Commissioners | 8/20/2025        | 8/20/2025-3/31/2026  |
| Julia Fox                           | Board of Park Commissioners | 12/16/2024       | 12/16/2024-3/31/2026 |
| Ben Gardner                         | Board of Park Commissioners | 1/2/2024         | 1/2/2024-3/31/2026   |
| Michael Gleeson                     | Board of Park Commissioners | 4/28/2020        | 4/1/2024-3/31/2026   |
| Louise Miracle                      | Board of Park Commissioners | 2/13/2025        | 2/13/2025-12/31/2026 |
| John Norton                         | Board of Park Commissioners | 1/1/2024         | 1/1/2024-3/31/2026   |
| Edward Robertson                    | Board of Park Commissioners | 6/27/2024        | 6/27/2024-3/31/2026  |
| Karen Saint Rain                    | Board of Park Commissioners | 4/1/2024         | 4/1/2024-3/31/2026   |
| Kip Schlegel                        | Board of Park Commissioners | 4/1/2024         | 4/1/2024-3/31/2026   |
| Patricia Sigman                     | Board of Park Commissioners | 6/27/2024        | 6/27/2024-3/31/2026  |
| Clarence Boone,<br>Staff<br>Liasion | N/A                         | N/A              | N/A                  |