

**Bloomington Community Farmers' Market
Advisory Council Minutes
July 17, 2023**

FMAC Members Attending: Cortland Carrington (Chair), Tracy Bruce, Ben Gardner, Mike Gleeson, Chris Manansala, Karen Saint Rain, Kip Schlegel, Lynn Schwartzberg, Rebecca Vadas, and Macaulay Ward,

FMAC Members Absent: Phrueksaphong “Cheng” Visuthduangdusdee

Parks Staff in Attendance: Clarence Boone and Sarah Mullin

Members of the Public: Iris Kiesling and Deborah Piston-Hatlen

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Cortland Carrington.

Approval of Minutes: April 17, 2023 minutes were reviewed and accepted.

1. Old Business

- “Youth Day at the Market” (Rescheduled for August 5) 37 Booths /11 FV/ 14 FBA/ 12 Crafts
- “From Farm to Table” (Scheduled for August 19) 6 FV Produce & Meat

2. New Business

- **FMAC Welcome to Chris Manansala**
 - Andy epitomizes the “great American success story”. His is similar to a long tradition of immigrant families starting a new life, in a new place, and in this case, sharing their food with their new community. He launched Pinoy Garden Cafe on April 2nd of 2022, starting with a booth at the Bloomington Community Farmers’ Market then branching out to local events and an active catering service. With an infectious can-do spirit, he started small & from scratch. Currently, they do not have a food truck or restaurant, but have been making great inroads toward acquiring one this year. His passion is to introduce Filipino culture to everyone! His entrepreneurial drive and voice of reason would be a welcome addition to the Farmers’ Market Advisory Council.
- **May and June Farmers’ Market Attendance Reports**
 - **Vendor & Customer Counts (‘23/’22)**
 - **May 3rd Vendors: 49/41 / Customers: 2040/1080**
 - **May 4th Vendors: 44/41 / Customers: 5115/2328**

- June 1st Vendors: 44/43 / Customers: 1809/2148
- June 2nd Vendors: 46/43 / Customers: 2109/2439
- June 3rd Vendors: 49/47 / Customers: 2010/2403
- June 4th Vendors: 50/41 / Customers: 2040/1893
- July 1st Vendors: 34/39 / Customers: 507/2280
- July 2nd Vendors: 49/46 / Customers: 609/2577

➤ **November Market (November 25th @ SYP)**

- Due to the harsh inclement weather experienced in 2022, it was decided to host the three November Market dates at SYP (refer back to 12-19-22 minutes). Bloomington Winter Farmers' Market reached out to see if there was any way to co-host. They are up against a mid-July timeline to get applications out to their vendors. We held some discussions and have agreed to jointly share the space with WMFM. A letter went out last week (refer to it).
- Cost will be \$22 per Saturday (Adjusted if a vendor is outside in the elements.) Approx. 45 vendors can fit into 8x8 spaces.
- **2024 Price Schedule** We'll be entering into discussion on adjustments to the pricing schedule for our farm vendors and Food and beverage Artisans. When asked by members of the FMAC, what might be the levels, it was shared that there is initial thought to lowering the FBA to 5% and increasing the FV fees to \$24. A final determination is needed before the November Parks Board Meeting.
- **Creation of a 50th Farmers' Market Anniversary Sub-Committee** Members are Cortland, Mccaulay, Kip, Chris and Lynn. In addition to establishing the sub-committee, their charge includes creating a theme, developing tributes, marketing (w/ Market staff), hosting a commemorative event, and developing swag items.

3. Public Comment - anything unrelated to agenda items

- It was noted that Marble Hills Farm is a "Featured Farm" at the 2023 Indiana State Fair

4. Adjournment: Seeing no more comments from the council or public, a call was made and accepted for adjournment at 6:50 p.m.