

**Bloomington Community Farmers' Market  
Advisory Council Minutes  
May 20, 2024**

**FMAC Members Attending:** Tracy Bruce, Kip Schlegel (Chair), Ben Gardner, Michael Gleeson, Chris Manansala (virtual), Karen Saint Rain (Vice Chair), Rebecca Vadas (virtual)

**FMAC Members Absent:**

**Parks Staff in Attendance:** Clarence Boone

**Public Attendees:** Austin Hochstetler of ZEC Eight Consultants

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Karen Saint Rain

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from April 15, 2024 were reviewed and accepted.

**1. Old Business**

- BCFM Evaluation Updates (Guest presenter: Austin Hochstetler of ZEC Eight Consultants conducted a FMAC Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (S.W.O.T.) Analysis.)
- Program Elements for Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> “*FM 50<sup>th</sup> Recognition Day*”
  - Theme: **Farmers' Market 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration - Honoring Vendors & the Bloomington Community**
  - City of Bloomington Official Proclamation was shared. (attached to these minutes)
  - Kip & Karen to share periodic reflection readings beginning at 10:15
  - Deliverables:
    1. 50<sup>th</sup> Public Comment Board will be hung on the ramp wall behind Info Table
    2. 50<sup>th</sup> Oral History Tent w/ a photo backdrop to be located near M.T.A.T.
    3. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pennants to be distributed to vendors
    4. 50<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Magnet Give-A-Ways
    5. Specially designed 50<sup>th</sup> Tote Bags will be sold
    6. 50<sup>th</sup> Digital Sign Slide Show placed near Info Table
    7. Press Releases set to drop this week
    8. Facebook Posts are ongoing

○ Special Engagement:

1. Children's FM Scavenger Hunt Game
2. Face-Paintings and caricature artist
3. Two performers are scheduled (Steve Plessinger/Marina Stant & Emma Richards)

**2. New Business**

➤ **Farmers' Market Stats for April 20<sup>th</sup> thru May 18<sup>th</sup>**

- **April 20<sup>th</sup>:** 41 Vendors (21FVs/11FBA) 1,440 Customers
- **April 27<sup>th</sup>:** 38 Vendors (28FVs/10FBA) 1,725 Customers
  - **Total for April:** 149 Vendors / 7,548 Customers
- **May 4<sup>th</sup>:** 55 Vendors (41FVs/14FBA) 2,394 Customers
- **May 11<sup>th</sup>:** 55 Vendors (41FVs/14FBA) 2,871 Customers
- **May 18<sup>th</sup>:** 46 Vendors (31FVs/15FBA) 2,214 Customers
  - **Running total for May:** 156 Vendors / 7,479 Customers

➤ **FMAC Appointment Updates:**

**Recommendations**

Staff recommends the re-appointment of the following Farmer' Market Advisory Council members:

1. Karen Saint Rain - Farm Vendor
2. Kip Schlegel - Farm Vendor
3. Rebeca Vadas - Farm Vendor
4. Tracy Bruce - Food and Beverage Artisan
5. Andy Manansala - Food and Beverage Artisan
6. Michael Gleeson - Customer Representative

Staff recommends the appointment of **Edward Robertson** (Customer Service Representative) and **Patricia Sigman** (Farmer Vendor Representative) to the Farmers' Market Advisory Council.

### **New Prospective Applicant Qualifications**

**Edward Robertson** is a long-time Information Alley participant. He believes the Market is a standout feature of the Bloomington community and is recognized world-wide, with friends who reported seeing our Market on TV in LA and in Cambridge England. He feels the community and vendor interactions at the Market enhance each other and Market policy should promote more of this. As a regular participant, Ed is aware how days at the Market progress, and he is aware of the balance needed to make the Market both well-functioning and open.

**Patricia Sigman** is co-proprietor of Hi-Acre Farm. This family farm was started in 1964 and they began selling produce at the Farmers' Market in 1987. Patricia's familiarity and devotion for the advancement of the Market sets her part as an excellent candidate for Council membership.

3. Public Comment - anything unrelated to agenda items (no comments made)
4. Adjournment at 6:41 p.m.

# PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market has been a cherished tradition in our city for half a century, serving as a cornerstone of our community; and
- WHEREAS, for the past 50 years, the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market has provided a vibrant gathering space where residents and visitors alike come together to celebrate local agriculture, culinary arts, and cultural diversity; and
- WHEREAS, the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market has played a pivotal role in supporting our local farmers, artisans, and small businesses, providing them with a platform to showcase their products and connect with the community; and
- WHEREAS, the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market has enriched our city's culinary landscape by offering fresh, locally grown produce, artisanal goods, and a diverse array of delicious foods, inspiring healthy eating habits and sustainable living practices; and
- WHEREAS, the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market embodies the spirit of community, resilience, and innovation, adapting to changing times while staying true to its core values of promoting local agriculture, supporting small businesses, and enriching the lives of our citizens; and
- WHEREAS, as we celebrate the 50th season of the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market, we recognize and honor the dedication, passion, and hard work of all those who have contributed to its success over the years, including farmers, vendors, volunteers, organizers, and patrons;

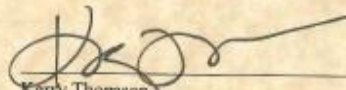
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kerry Thomson, Mayor of the City of Bloomington, do hereby proclaim May 25, 2024 as

## BLOOMINGTON COMMUNITY FARMERS' MARKET 50TH SEASON CELEBRATION

in Bloomington, Indiana.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed, the Seal of the City of Bloomington this 6th day of May 2024.

  
Kerry Thomson  
Mayor, City of Bloomington