

Bloomington Community Farmers' Market Advisory Council

Monday, October 16, 2017 at 5:30 pm

Parks Conference Room

Advisory Council Members Present

Bruce McCallister, Rachel Beyer, Kathy Aiken, Rachel Rosolina, Leslie Burns, Mary White.

Absent: Carmen Siering, Bobbi Boos.

Public Present

Market/City Staff Present

Marcia Veldman.

1. Call to Order

Leslie called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Minutes

The August minutes were approved.

3. Public Comment

4. New Business

A. Resignation of FMAC Member

Don Rhudy has resigned his position on the Advisory Council, citing difficulties with driving in the dark hours to meetings. For the time being, the empty seat will remain unfilled until the Park Board makes appointments in February..

B. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Kathy Aiken will serve as Chair and Rachel Rosolina will serve as Vice-Chair.

C. End of Vendor Meeting

The end of season meeting for vendors will meet after Market on Saturday, October 21 in the Council Chambers. As an aside, Marcia shared that Mother Hubbard's Cupboard is interested in gathering information from Market vendors about their opinions on the Farm Bill as they plan to enact awareness and advocacy in this area in the coming year.

D. December Retreat

This meeting will happen on December 4th, possibly at the Inkwell. Meeting is estimated to go on for about 2 hours. Marcia asked the group for agenda items for this conversation about the Market. One topic that will be covered will be information about the Switchyard Park development and updates on the plans for Bloomington's newest park.

5. Old Business

A. Potential Changes for 2018

Tinctures are a product in question in terms of eligibility for sale at Market. After meeting with vendor and herbalist, Grace MacNeil, Marcia reported that the sale of these items will not be allowed in the coming year at Market. Citing that, although legal, this type of product can be contraindicated for people taking certain medications and, given the fast paced market environment, there may not be time for even a vendor as knowledgeable as Grace to adequately advise a customer about the products' safest use. Moving forward, more research

can be done into other markets that do allow for the sale of tinctures to see how that might be viable in the future.

The question of heritable points has been weighed this past year and will not be further explored at this point because it is a highly discretionary set of circumstances. Given there is not an immediate need to consider this transfer of points, no rules will be formed around it at this time.

The sale of spirits at Market has been discussed after reports of other market venues selling and sampling spirits as regular products, but the Indiana legislator who drafted this law spoke up about this commerce, saying it was not the intent of the law to have this carry out. No party will engage regularly in this activity at Market, but Marcia will be presenting interest on the part of Cardinal Spirits in selling spirits by the bottle during the unique Holiday Market event.

Grant Pershing, of Blue Hour Farm, has requested that fermented foods be allowed under the Market's Home Based Vendor (HBV) rules as eligible for sale. HBV items fall under the purview of the BCFM. Changes in the HBV language reflects that if there is a question about the safety of the product that the vendor assumes the responsibility for safety assessment testing, i.e. acidity levels or water activity.

Marcia surveyed the Prepared Foods Vendors part way through the season to assess their usage of local products to see that it matched with their proposed plans to do so. She found they were largely doing what they said they would in this regard, but she plans to add language that will state more clearly that the Market expects a commitment to sourcing local ingredients from this vendor group.

6. Adjournment

Minutes submitted by Robin Kitowski