

**Bloomington Community Farmers Market
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2019**

Advisory Council Members Present

Kathy Aiken, Cortland Carrington, Bruce McCallister, Leslie Sommer, Robin Kitowski, Rachel Roslina.

Staff Present

Marcia Veldman, Sarah Mullin and Leslie Brinson.

Members of the Public Present

League of Women Voters Representative.

1. Call to Order:

Kathy called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Minutes:

December 2018 minutes were approved

3. Public Comment:

None

4. New Business:

A. Introductions – Robin Kitowski- new Advisory Council Vendor Representative from Sycamore Run Farm introduced herself. Another new customer representative was not able to be in attendance, Suzanne Mann.

B. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

Leslie Sommer volunteered to be the Vice Chair and Bruce McCallister agreed to be the Chair. Unanimously voted upon. Positions will run through February 2020. Kathy Aiken was thanked for her time as Chair.

C. Tuesday Market Update

Tuesday Market Kick Off event will take place on June 4th in partnership with Bloomingfoods Co-Op Day. There will be a door prize give away, games and food. We are working on getting the word out about Tuesday market through Bloomingfoods advertisements, day of yard signs and directional signs as well as newsletters and posters in nearby businesses.

D. Update on Improving Access for Low-Income People

Marcia updated the Council on the increase of healthy food access including a \$30,000 grant to Double Market Bucks. This grant also included the ability to provide field trips to Tuesday market for camp organizations in which the program will get gift certificates to spend at the market. The hope is to introduce more people to the market and the ease of getting healthy food. The Tuesday market will also be working with the Farm to

Family Fund program, where vendors will have the opportunity at the end of market to sell remaining product for 50% of the price. Farm to Family Fund will then donate the purchased product to Mother Hubbards Cupboard for their food pantry. The last initiative is working with Volunteers in Medicine on a Market RX program with an existing diabetes class. Class members will receive gift certificates to be used at market at the ½ point of the class and again at the end of the class. There will be 5 cohorts of this class during the market season. Bruce wondered if Rural Transit would be willing to pick up Crestmont residents and bring them to market. Bruce believes transportation could be a barrier.

E. Update on Prepared Food Vendors

Marcia is meeting with a few vendors who have expressed similar concerns as Muddy Fork Bakery did in 2018. They would like to see improvements to enhance the PFV experience. Some of their requests include being able to drive on the B-Line to load and unload supplies, additional electricity, provided shelter and water access, and to have representation on the FMAC. Staff will look into options for a representative to join the FMAC. Kathy suggested a liaison role and making sure they know that the meetings are open to the public. Robin mentioned having the PFV in attendance would give them a chance to understand the market from a larger view and hear the side of the farm vendors and customers.

F. General Market Updates

There are several new staff at the market, but they are doing great and staff feel good about their ability to help the market. The summer Homegrown Indiana Farm Tour will take place on Sunday, July 14th at Living Roots Farm and Sustainable Living Center. The fall farm tour will take place at Sycamore Run and New Ground Farm on Sunday, October 13. The Taste of Bloomington will take place on Saturday, June 22nd, so the market will be closing at noon. This year the Market is working with Bring Your Bag Bloomington to encourage customers to bring or borrow a bag and limit the use of plastic bags. Marcia gave the Council a copy of the financial breakdown for 2018.

G. Dogs in the Market

This continues to be an issue but the staff and volunteers are monitoring and asking people to leave as soon as they are noticed. There is a lot of signage at Market entries. Staff have noticed an increase in the number of emotional support dogs and service dogs as well as dogs being carried by their owners.

5. Old Business:

There was no old business to discuss.

6. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.