

**Bloomington Community Farmers' Market
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

June 17, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

Council Chambers, City Hall

Advisory Council Members Present

Bruce McCallister, Kathy Aiken, Cortland Carrington, Leslie Sommer, Robin Kitowski, Rachel Roslina, Suzanne Mann, Rebecca Vadas, Carmen Siering

Staff Present

Marcia Veldman, Sarah Mullin, Leslie Brinson, Paula McDevitt, Becky Higgins, Mary Catherine Carmichael, Barbara McKinney

Meeting began with Bruce McCallister greeting the audience and reading a prepared statement. He then introduced Mayor Hamilton.

Mayor Hamilton read a prepared statement.

Public Comment Period began: members of the public were asked to sign in, keep comments to two minutes and not repeat what others had already said.

Below is a brief description of what each person said at the podium.

Speakers:

- Abby Ang – She started the petition. It's clear that the vendors are the same people as the white supremacists online and that they are members of Identity Evropa (IE). IE has a history of discrimination, including organizing the Unite the Right Rally in Charlottesville. They want to incite violence. They distributed offensive flyers on campus and it was condemned by the Provost. They are creating a hostile environment in an area where we say we want to promote inclusiveness. She asked for clarification of the FMAC. What can the board do to promote access? She mentioned a fund to help people of color and programs to help undocumented farmers.
- David Steward- This feels like a witch hunt. It's guilt by shaming, doxing. He's never had a problem at the market. He said the activists are calling their neighbors Nazis, and you can't start a conversation with that.
- Brandi Williams - With privilege comes responsibility. We need a broader conversation. She does not take her kids to the market now. She has talked to the vendors in question. Nonviolence is never an easy path. We need to win our opponents' views.
- Janice Lily – We need to defeat the evil. Not the person.
- Jada Bee - We need to realize that violence is inherent in white supremacists' philosophy. She's asking for extermination; root them out. She asked the City not to provide a platform for white supremacists. They are not showing her respect so she won't show them respect. She requested that the City do a longitudinal study of why people of color

do not go to the market, why they don't feel welcome or safe.

- Juliana Crespo - She feels unsafe at the market. She said people of color do not feel safe. This should matter [to the City]. She feels fear when she is near the vendors' booth. She said she felt the town's vibrancy when she first started coming to the market in 2007. What is community if we don't feel safe? She wants the feeling of safety to be real. She implored the city to do something.
- Amy Countryman - The situation is so complicated, she feels sick. The way we deal with it is important. The City needs to take the lead on this. We need a community forum to create a solution. We need to recognize this is a symptom, not a problem. We need a strong black moderator at the forum. Getting rid of the vendors will not get rid of the problem.
- Anonymous - We are being distracted from where the root of the evil is. It's pitting us against each other. We can't lose our free speech rights. This person has never experienced discrimination at the market.
- Lauren McCallister - Again, black people are being told to step aside. She's tired of waiting. What is the City going to do to protect her? She is a black farmer and wants to participate, but also wants protection from the vendors in question.
- Jennifer Robinson - There's more that unites us than divides us. Farmers should represent diversity. She supports the boycott and supports the market.
- Jonah Williams - called the activists Antifa. He said they are making a lot of assumptions.
- Anonymous - Stated that white supremacists [vendors] have intimidated people. Her photo had been taken in an attempt to intimidate her. She does not feel safe there. We are not safe in a country that allows this.
- Brett Volpp - It has been 2 years since allegations began. Now it is beyond allegations. He does not feel safe at the market since the allegations surfaced and said that the vendors have tried to recruit people to IE. He pointed out that the FMAC is all white. Most of the vendors are white. Other vendors should stay home/boycott the market until the issue is resolved.
- Sherry Mitchell - A Muslim woman said she knows Sarah Dye. She is not afraid. She does not know the answer. She said we need a loophole.
- Sura Gail Tala - Representing Muslims. IE has said they are against Muslims. We need to find a loophole.
- Wil Stahly - Immigrant from Somalia. He feels safe in Bloomington. He said sometimes our emotions get ahead of ourselves. Diversity includes thought, too. He came from a country that doesn't have laws. We must come together.
- Anonymous - talked about the church shooting; today is the anniversary. The shooters there had the same learning and background as the vendors. He said that 95% of domestic terrorists are members of hate groups. He doesn't care about the vendors' thoughts or speech. He is concerned about the actions of hate groups. Fascism is not a belief.
- Stacey Decker - We can't ignore this. She feels unsafe. We need a forum that works on this and continues to work on this issue.
- Anonymous - we need to be specific on what we are requesting. She suggested a facilitated community forum where we can improve and heal. There are visible threats. She said cities have fired racist officers; she learned this after googling for ten minutes.

So we can fire the vendors. We need to investigate every legal route. She said the City could be sued for discrimination if it didn't ban the vendors.

- Anonymous - Someone said he/she was ashamed to be white in this community. S/he said the vendors are a direct threat and mentioned the vandalism at the synagogue.
- Anonymous - said the vendors' behavior could lead to concentration camps. She read quotes from the IE leader showing his discrimination.
- Nate – Disappointed that the FMAC can't do anything. Wants a lawyer to address this issue. We need the FMAC to stand up against hate at our market. Please take action. If not, resign and join us.
- Daniel - There is no reason to question the evidence. The vendors have recruited people. They've threatened those who refused to join to silence them. There are photos of them on an internet channel with their names on boxes. It's very clear. They are committed to the Nazification of America. We can't afford them free speech. Trump is acting like an early Nazi. There is enough evidence to convict them in court of the crime of being a Nazi, if being a Nazi were a crime.
- Delia- read from the market handbook about creating a welcoming environment. This person said the vendors had harassed people; it's real. They are in violation of their contract. We need to throw them out. It's not free speech. We need to protect vulnerable people. We can't wait until it's more dangerous.
- Thomas Westgard- said he brought the problems to the attention of the Brown County market. He said Sarah Dye lied. There are things the City can do. The vendors have to follow the law. They have not. A conviction is not required. Marcia says we can't do anything and that is BS. It's a major win for white supremacists. He has found legal authority to show we can ban them. He asked people to tell him if the vendors have tried to recruit them.
- Zara- woman said we need to stop scooting around the issue. It's not a punishment to throw them out of the market.
- Linda- asked what are we going to do? We are responsible for what we put online. At the least we can move them to the edge of the market.
- Name not known said Indiana has 24 white supremacist groups; we are 14th in the country.
- Vauxx Booker- said he had been home watching the meeting and got angry. He's ashamed we have to be here. He read from King's letter from the Birmingham Jail. He said the First Amendment was written by slaveholders. We need to pursue legal action.

Bruce ended the meeting at 7:30pm.