

Bloomington Community Farmers' Market

Meeting Minutes from Monday, August 19 at 5:30 pm City Legal Conference Room

FMAC members in attendance: Bruce McCallister, Robin Kitowski, Rachel Rosolina, Kathy Aiken, Rebeca Vadas, Cortland Carrington, Carmen Siering, Suzanne Mann

Staff in attendance: Les Coyne, Leslie Brinson, Marcia Veldman, Sarah Mullin

Community in attendance: approximately 32

1. Meeting was called to order by Bruce at 5:35pm
2. Approval of Minutes from May and June- Rachel mentioned her last name was spelled wrong in the minutes, should be corrected. Passed unanimously.
3. Public Comment

Sura Gail Tala baby steps that could be taken to get to a more inclusive market- take a portion of the farm vendor fee and give to farmers of minority and provide uniformed laminated signs for all vendors that express a welcome to all

Monica Billman would like to look at the points system for this year as the current system is making her choose between her morals and her need to stay at the market to earn vendor points. Believes all farm vendors should be granted all points for the remainder of the season whether they attend or not.

Brandi Williams stated that her going to the alternate market was not a statement of division but that she has experienced intimidation and does not feel safe at the city location and it was not worth her safety or emotional stress to attend. She agreed that all penalties for not attending should be removed.

Linda Stewart said SCF has good produce and she is happy that market allows a place for those to sell good food

Lauren McCallister also agrees with vendor point discussion and the police and barricades did not make her feel safe and would deter her from vending in the future

Susan Welsand thanked Monica for the positive vibes she worked to create on Saturday with the balloons and vendor circle. The 3%'s were in attendance and that we should all be alert and safe in coming weeks

Keith Uridel agreed with vendor point discussion and that it would help vendors stand in solidarity

4. Old Business

-Impressions of the Market Reopening

Kathy Aiken was a market ambassador and enjoyed greeting people and heard 100% positive comments from customers and had a positive experience.

Rebecca Vadas, as a vendor, she received many positive comments from customers and appreciated a more positive vibe.

Robin Kitowski was a market ambassador that greeted the public and some did feel unsure about the market, especially with the police presence on Morton Street. Does not feel the police numbers make sense and did not like that presence.

Abby Ang gave a shout out to Monica for her work on Saturday and asked about the market ambassador sign up process. Leslie Brinson told her that the first two weeks were selected by the City since it was short notice and working through the program, but that anyone could sign up through the link for August 31st and moving forward.

Suzanne Mann arrived early from the 7th and Morton entrance and it was an eerie feeling but appreciated the activity and for trying to be normal

Community Member- It is not normal to have white supremacist at market and people won't go until SCF is removed.

Stacey Decker stated that it is a fact that people are not coming to market because they do not feel safe with SCF in attendance.

Community Member people are getting hurt by this organization.

A Market Vendor stated she was glad that vendors had options on Saturday- it is hard to go back to city market.

Renee Miller said it is good for people to sit with the uncomfortable feelings because that is nothing compared to what those of people with color or other discriminated groups are feeling
Sura Gail Tala stated her daughter had been doing research on the legal aspects of removing SCF and believes the contract would overstep the first amendment and that more research by City Legal should be done as there as to be a way to remove them.

Maria Carlssare asked about attendance numbers. She felt they were lower and feels they will stay low as the atmosphere has been compromised.

Monica Billman loved the stickers and the ambassadors but was looking for something that she could do to change the feeling and it took a lot of will power for her to attend the market. She will be filing a civil rights lawsuit against the city if anyone would like to talk to her afterward.

Abby Ang echoed Monica about the will power to attend and feels the burden on her and her group to help provide a normal atmosphere. She is being asked to decrease numbers and help the situation.

Amy Countryman stated it makes her upset when she hears people say that they want it to be normal. We should not be okay with normal, if it includes white supremacy, and she did not attend market.

Lisa Meurer said she feels the city should be putting resources to find a solution. Marcia asked if she had any suggestions and she said no, but that she would hope the city would have them by now.

Lauren McCallister stated that Indiana in general isn't doing farming well and we need to open ways for the next generation of farmers to get started and look to the long term of farming by removing barriers for farmers and make it as easy as possible to sell.

Dave Stewart noted it's important to look back and see how we got to this situation- things were going fine until SCF was outed to be Nazis. He believes this has been a witch hunt and that they have been made guilty by association – he's against censoring.

Community Member said she wants to echo what Amy said and they are not surprised that it is happening in Indiana. We have to be uncomfortable and not try to return to normal as many have mentioned.

Community Member stated there are people in the community who agree with David. We have this opportunity to talk through the differences- perhaps with mediated discussions with CJAM.

Rachel Rosolina said she did think the Market felt like a police state to her. She requested to move to new business so a decision/ discussion can take place regarding vendor points

Bobbi Boos mentioned that not all vendors can hang signs due to religious beliefs, so if you don't see the inclusive sign at a stall please talk to them and don't assume or judge based on that.

-Review Options for Input- did not take place

-Discuss Role of FMAC in Broadening Inclusion- at the end of the meeting Bruce mentioned getting a group together to be on the Broadening Inclusion committee and sent around a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in taking part. He would not be able to lead it, but will get an email out to start the conversation.

5. New Business

Vendor Point System: vendors should not be penalized for not attending

Rachel Rosolina suggested that everyone should get points for the season.

Rebecca Vadas suggested it was a good symbolic gesture. She asked if it would be through October and wondered about the long term affects.

Bruce McCallister wondered if everyone received points it would provide a benefit for those that were only vending part time and would not have earned the points in the existing system.

Cortland Carrington said he likes the idea but that we should pull data from vendors to see what their vending intentions are for the remainder of season.

Marcia Veldman suggested it might be better to not award any points.

Robin Kitowski said that would make the season a wash essentially.

Rebecca Vadas said some vendors might not be in favor of this and not appreciate not having the opportunity for input.

Bobbi Boos suggested giving anyone that has attended at least one day 2.2 points to help first time vendors receive some points for the year.

Les Coyne wants to move forward and not sideways and thinks this a good move forward. He wants to work on what the market can be in the future.

Rachel Rosolina proposed that all vendors would receive 2.2 points if they had attended at least one day of market and that 2019 would not count in the seniority system and that vendors with concerns or grievances would be able to take them to the Park Board for final decisions.

The motion was voted on and unanimously carried. This recommendation will now move to the Market and Parks staff for discussion.

6. Adjournment- meeting was adjourned at 7:05 by Bruce.