

**Bloomington Community Farmers' Market
Farmers Market Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes from Monday, September 16, 2019 at 5:30pm
Switchyard Park Maintenance Building**

FMAC members in attendance: Bruce McCallister, Rachel Rosolina, Cortland Carrington, Robin Kitowski, Kathy Aiken, Leslie Sommer, Suzanne Mann.

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

Community in attendance: approximately 12

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Bruce McCallister at 5:35pm

2. Approval of Minutes

Amy Countryman stated that her comments in the August minutes needed to be updated. What she wanted to say was, "I don't want the presence of overt white supremacists to be considered normal."

Minutes from August were reviewed and approved, subject to the change suggested by Amy.

3. Public Comment

Amy inquired whether the FMAC could confirm Sarah Dye's claim in the Red Ice interview that her lawyer has been in contact with the City. Marcia Veldman said that she believes her lawyer has been in contact with the City, but she doesn't know in what context.

Dani Ansaldo asked when the Broadening Inclusion Subcommittee would start meeting. This provided a segue into the first topic in Old Business.

4. Old Business

Broadening Inclusion Subcommittee –

- Bruce said about 10 people expressed interest in the subcommittee at a previous meeting. He reached out and asked someone else in this group to take the lead on the subcommittee because he is chair of the FMAC and he didn't feel like the subcommittee would have as much legitimacy if he was chair of both. No one has responded to that request.
- On the morning of September 16, Marcia and Bruce met with Gavin Everett who is interested in chairing the subcommittee. Bruce forwarded the names of those who have expressed interest in participating. Gavin also knows of people who might be interested. It will start moving forward now.
- If the subcommittee gets too big, it will be hard to function so they are hoping to have 7-9 subcommittee members, and hopefully will include a lot of buy-in from the community to get things done. The focus of the meetings will be action – to do things that can help the market be more inclusive.
- Gavin and Bruce want people for whom this is a really important issue and who will commit to consistently attending monthly 1 hour meetings so that there isn't a lot of backtracking.

Electronic communication in between meetings is also an expectation so that meetings can be really efficient and time outside meetings can be used for actionable items.

- The plan is to get an application out and have the FMAC make selections.

Points System

- In August the FMAC voted to give everyone 2.2 points, but City Legal said that the point system can't change mid-contract in this way.
- Bruce suggested that the subcommittee who was going to meet in regards to the points meet anyway to see if there is a path forward that would not take points away from any vendors but that would ensure that those vendors who aren't coming because of concerns they have about being at the market aren't penalized.
- Marcia provided context about the decision to not suspend the points system. It was not an agenda item, and staff wasn't prepared to address legal concerns.
- Bruce said that we still need to explore a way that vendors who are not attending aren't penalized. He suggested an honor system. An approach where points aren't taken away from any vendors may be an easier approach.
- Amy Countryman suggested it would be a forward-thinking move on the City's part to make space for vendors, vendors who aren't attending, and activists to talk and see each other's side of the issue before asking for a vendor vote on the points system. It may be helpful in bridging the divide in this community right now.
- Jen Robinson suggested that vendors very broadly should be consulted about the points system. In farming, people think very far in advance – roughly 1 year. People attending now and suffering because of the lack of customer participation did their planning last January. They, in good faith, invested in the market and it's not coming to fruition for them now. People are very disheartened and they need to have a voice.

Vendor Meeting

- Susan Welsand asked if there is going to be more meetings with vendors. It was very cathartic for vendors to share views with City staff and they would like more opportunities, especially to talk about next steps for the future.
- Takeaways from the vendor meeting: Susan felt like the conversation was just a start. Jen said that vendors wanted an opportunity to communicate their perspective to the members of the community. There is no organization of farmers or a way to be collectively heard. She felt like many vendors think if they could talk about their perspective, many people would learn from that. There hasn't been a forum for that. They don't want to be shouted down.
- 23 vendors attended the meeting. Anyone who expressed interest was able to attend.
- There was a sense that there was a good range of vendor perspectives represented.
- Bruce said that people need to hear each other's concerns and fears (vendors, protesters, etc.), all of which are legitimate. He thought there could be a path forward.
- Marcia mentioned that smaller group sizes (15-25 individuals) are preferred when mediated conversations happen, because it's harder to have deeper conversation if too many people are involved.
- Amy mentioned the Dominant Narrative training that would take place at the library.
- Bruce summarized: The vendor meeting seemed effective and there's a desire for more conversation. It was nice that everyone was able to speak due to the smaller group size.

5. New Business

- Tour of Switchyard Park and discussion of site for potential Tuesday Market location
- Dave Williams, Director of Operations, led a tour.