

**Bloomington Community Farmers' Market Advisory Council
Broadening Inclusion Subcommittee**

Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 5:15 pm

Broadening Inclusion Members Present

Amanda Sheridan, Juliana Crespo, Eduardo, Judy Klein, Gracia Valliant, Gavin Everett, Bruce McCallister, PDVNCH, Wil Stahly

Public Present

One public citizen present.

Staff Present

Marcia Veldman

1. Call to Order

PDVNCH called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Minutes

One BI member asked whether the minutes have to be made public; his concern is that people of color on the subcommittee will encounter harm if the public has knowledge of their names and comments. Marcia said she would follow up the next day. The November minutes were, however, approved.

3. Business

A. Introductions

Introductions were made. Wil Stahly and Bruce McCallister were present this time and introduced themselves as well.

B. Meeting Date and Time for January

The date stands the same – January 9, 2020. The new time will be from 6 – 7:30 p.m. All members are willing to attend.

C. Discussion of Shared Values

The subcommittee discussed what our shared values should be. Judy said that she would like for Broadening Inclusion to presume goodwill. Gracia said that really listening to one another and considering a response before speaking up is important. PDVNCH suggested that it is important to consider perspectives aside from our own; he discussed how learning about other perspectives gives us an opportunity to learn as well. Juliana said that being okay with discomfort while discussing ideas is important. Bruce suggested that individuals express curiosity. Jason said that continually revising understanding and allowing for change should be part of our shared values. Judy said that confidentiality should be honored. Gavin would like for us to value and listen to everyone's ideas because they can be a springboard for better ideas; we should also not be afraid to express our own ideas for fear of rejection. Marcia added that she was impressed with how we shared the space last time we met; everyone participated.

D. Timeline of Events Related to Market Issue

Marcia sent the subcommittee members a timeline of the events. Members agree that it is accurate and captures the reality of what has happened this year regarding Market issues.

E. Reflections on Market Visit Since Last Meeting

PDVNCH mentioned that the particular goal to visit the Market at least once and observe it as a Broadening Inclusion member was set forward by Gavin last month. He invited people to share their experiences. Judy said that the Market felt the same as before to her; she observed fewer vendors and customers. She was particularly struck by the Purple Brigade; she mentioned finding what they do problematic. Gracia said that she didn't see many African-American or Latino individuals; she did, however, see many young Asian individuals and families. She also observed that they were social and seemed to be largely unaffected by the Purple Brigade or Doug and Sarah's booth. Gracia also observed that she noticed one individual feeling very distressed by what the Purple Brigade was doing, and one woman, in particular, was empathetic toward Sarah and Doug for having to deal with the protestors. During a return to the conversation regarding Asians at Market, Amanda pointed out that Asians are the largest minority group in Bloomington. Wil then spoke and said that he saw fewer African-Americans the last time he went to Market as opposed to earlier this year. Wil said that because African-Americans make up only four percent of the population, the discrepancy between the presence of African Americans and Asian individuals (who make up eight or nine percent of the population) makes sense. He said that when he went to Market, he spoke to several people, including one Hispanic man who vehemently defended Sarah Dye; in addition, he spoke to a couple of young Asian girls who pointed out the ridiculousness of the current situation at Market. He also mentioned the huge economic variance in Bloomington keeping some from attending Market; there's also the question of safety. He said that the tricky part is taking all of these factors into consideration. PDVNCH said that it's wonderful to engage the community in these conversations. Judy remembered that she observed Tom Frohman, head of Indiana Legal Services, talking at length to Sarah Dye at Market; Judy called him and expressed curiosity regarding the conversation. Tom relayed that he asked Sarah Dye what she believes others object to her beliefs. Sarah shared with him that she is not a nazi and does not believe the white race is superior; however, she does believe immigration needs to be halted, and she also believes that she should be able to support her own race. Tom then shared with Judy said that he supports the city in not removing them and that a political litmus test should not be required for vendors; he also believes the protests are counter-productive. Eduardo said that he has not spent much time at the Market for personal safety reasons; he did enjoy the Winter Market, however. He shared that he does not mind the protestors. PDVNCH brought up that Farmers' Market social media is predominantly made up of non-minority individuals but that there were minorities in photos; he believes, based on this observation, that Farmers' Market needs a stronger balance between non-minorities and minorities. He also attended a Farmers' Market panel discussion that took place on Dec. 7th. He mentioned that Rashall Brackney, Virginia chief of police, shared that her community is still dealing with their issues surrounding enforcement at Farmers' Market. PDVNCH also mentioned the option of privatizing came up; at this same meeting, he learned from Brackney that communication is essential, even with those assumed to be racist or white supremacists. The dialogue will help the community to prepare for potentially unsafe events or riots;

Brackney also suggested during this panel meeting that protest areas are important. Judy watched the panel meeting on Dec. 7th online and referred back to Brackney and her discussion regarding optics and how it can be deceiving; for example, if all local citizens see are cops escorting protestors from a site, some might assume the cops are choosing sides and not protecting those who fall on the side of the protestors. Judy said she sees this happening in the Bloomington community. Gavin contributed here and said that one police officer he spoke with recently shared that the police's first priority is to uphold the Constitution so that people have the freedom of speech and can feel safe. Gracia mentioned the IU law professor Steve Sanders, also at the panel meeting on Dec. 7th, and his discussion regarding how individuals are dissatisfied with the law as it is; Gracia said that individuals' dissatisfaction has to do with the First Amendment and how individuals on opposing sides want it to only apply to them and not to others. PDVNCH agreed with her and said that understanding the legal side is essential. Eduardo shared at this point that some individuals may still feel unsafe even if the City of Bloomington and Police Department have all of the individuals' safety in mind. Wil asked whether we can make sure that every individual feels safe. Juliana mentioned that it's important to consider how our perception of fear might be very different from the actuality. PDVNCH said that looking at the facts alongside our experiences and working through that is significant. Jason mentioned that he contributed during the panel discussion on Dec. 7th; at this panel discussion, he said that the common bridge might be everyone's desire to belong. At this point during the panel discussion, another attendee pointed out that the reality is very different for minorities. Jason said that he might not have made this observation based on his own experience. Amanda said that she understands why the protestors are at Market; she said that the protestors want their free speech to be upheld but feel instead their point of view is being edged out of the Farmers' Market space. Amanda said that she would be in favor of having a stand at Market to educate regarding white supremacy. Bruce pitched in and said he was really concerned with how many supporters of Sarah Dye have implied they want to sell at Market; he said that the people concerned about Schooner Creek are really unhappy. He has a concern that a Farmers' Market run by the city may not last if concerns are not addressed.

F. Review List of Ideas/Prioritize

Bruce said that he would like to see Market expanding so that it reaches out to more of the community so more people can experience a sense of community. Jason said that it might be good to have a non-partisan listening booth; this booth would be a space where people could voice their frustrations or worries. Wil discussed the need for actively recruiting diverse vendors and entertainers. Marcia mentioned that Farmers' Market is attempting to do this but that the Broadening Inclusion Committee may be able to help with this. Juliana talked about the possibility of a World Fair in which different cultures come together to host booths, perform, and provide culturally diverse foods. Gracia said that we would want to use this opportunity to encourage more diverse populations to shop and sell at the Market as opposed to just attending the events. Juliana said that for these events to be successful, they need to be consistent; individuals will come back because it will begin to feel like a community to them if they attend more and more of these events. Eduardo mentioned that others need to see that Farmers' Market isn't just hosting superficial events but is more intentional about it; the heart of these intentions must come through. PDVNCH talked about the importance of follow-through. Bruce talked about

how it's critical that the community takes a stance in saying that there's no place for white supremacy in Bloomington. He suggested that this can be a catalyst to change the Market. Juliana said that it's important to find common ground if the community is going to collectively decry racism and white supremacy. Judy said that she agrees with Bruce and believes the City of Bloomington needs to make a stronger statement discounting racism and white supremacy. Marcia proposed discussing with the mayor that he includes a very strong statement at the Jan 9th board meeting. Wil pointed out that the City is not being inclusive if it attempts to make some people so uncomfortable they leave. Gracia said that the city needs a strong statement from the mayor's office and from the city council since they set the standard; she said it's especially important right now because the issues at hand are tearing the community apart. She said that following this, we could go to the community and ask for support.

G. Input on Draft Market Mission Statement

Jason read the previous mission statement and the current draft of a revised mission statement. PDVNCH suggested we read the revised mission statement again and consider whether there's anything we need to add; he said we can communicate suggested changes via email over the next couple of weeks. Marcia would need any suggested changes by December 31st.

H. Misc.

Marcia said that the Parks Foundation just received \$80,000 to triple WIC and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. Judy mentioned that we haven't discussed as a group what we think about the Market being privatized; she said we should share our thoughts. Wil asked whether the subcommittee would be dissolved if the Market is privatized. Marcia and Bruce confirmed that it would be, but Bruce said that the work should ideally continue.

4. Public Comment

No public comment.

5. Adjournment

PDVNCH adjourned the meeting at 7 p.m.