

Farmers Market Advisory Council (FMAC) Meeting
April 19, 530-7pm

FMAC Members Attending: Cortland Carrington, Rebecca Vadas, Mike Gleeson, Mara Lea Rosenbarger, Whitney Schlegel, Janice Lilly, Lynn Schwartzberg

FMAC Members Absent: None

Parks Staff Attending: Clarence Boone, Leslie Brinson, Sarah Mullin

Members of the Public Attending:

Call to order

Call to order at 5:30pm

Approval of Minutes

February minutes approved by unanimous consent.

Old Business

Introduction of Clarence Boone- Program/ Facility Coordinator

My name is Clarence Boone. It's a pleasure to officially be on board as your new Farmers' Market Coordinator. My vocational mission reads, "Successfully enlist multiple communities and cultures, who embrace a variety of personal experiences, values, and worldviews into the fabric of the City of Bloomington and to create such meaningful engagements that participants will commit their time, talent, ideas, and resources into the life of their municipality." In short, my aim is to enhance the vibrancy of the Bloomington Farmers Market and Community Gardens.

By way of introduction, I have 25 years of experience in university fundraising, alumni relations, and admissions. The vast majority of that time was spent in program and event coordination, volunteer management and community engagement. I'm also an Assistant Pastor at Light House Community Church here in Bloomington. I've been married 18 years and on occasion, you'll likely see my wife and two daughters enjoying the market experience.

Space Reservation Meeting/ Vendor Numbers

Leslie and Sarah ran the Space Reservation Meeting on Thursday, March 4 from 6:00-8:00pm. Sarah and Leslie wanted to thank the vendors for their patience as they worked through their first time doing the meeting. 17 vendors reserved spaces in April and 33 vendors reserved spaces for May- October. Nicole from the Health Department attended and gave a brief update on Covid protocols and vendor license/ requirements. 63 vendors filled out applications to vend at the Market in 2021 along with 8 Food and Beverage Artisans.

Cortland asked how the numbers compare to previous years. Leslie responded that they are lower, but the number of reserved spaces are similar to the 2020 numbers. The number of applications is lower than previous years.

New Business

Recent Saturday Farmers' Market Update

Clarence provided attendance and Vendor numbers for the April 3 and April 10 Markets:

April 3rd – 996 customers / 17 Farm Vendors / 5 Food and Beverage Artisans

April 10th – 1052 customers / 20 Farm Vendors / 5 Food and Beverage Artisans

Health Department Regulation Updates

Clarence referred to the current Monroe County Health Order as well as the most recent message from the Mayor concerning Covid-19. The mask mandate is still in place and crowd size limitations will still be enforced. Market guidelines include limited attendance, masks mandated, no eating or drinking inside the market area and hand sanitizer available.

Board Vacancies/ Recruitment

Leslie reviewed the current vacancies on the FMAC. There is one farm vendor vacancy, two food and beverage artisan vacancies and potentially one customer vacancy. Clarence will confirm with Suzanne Mann that she would not like to apply for another term on the council. If the council has ideas or suggestions as to who could fill these vacancies please let the staff know.

Financial Assistance Program

Leslie and Clarence reminded the council that there is the \$5000 donation to be used to increase the diversity of the market through vendor recruitment, entertainment, events or other measures. Leslie suggested putting the fund toward entertainment and events once the Market is allowed to open up for these activities. Clarence talked about reaching out to both IU and Bloomington Community groups and individuals as options for events and entertainment.

Public Comment/Unrelated to the Agenda

No public comment

Adjournment

Adjournment at 6:15pm by unanimous consent.