



25 June 2014 Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Present: Michael Simmons
Nikki Wooten
Stephen Hale
Stephanie Solomon
Jennifer Studebaker
Angela Babb
Megan Hutchinson
David Parkhurst
John Galuska

Guests: Teddie Phillipson-Mower

Meeting convened at 12:00 p.m.

1. Jennifer confirmed a quorum was present.
2. May steering committee meeting minutes were accepted by the chair with no additional revisions.
3. Treasurer's Report – Our current balance is \$127.11. Dave had contacted Donnelly's office to accelerate our application processing, and after our approval, he spoke with a tax advocate and completed the forms to request tax refunds from our date of incorporation in 2011. Megan will check with DreamHost to see if we can get a discount or refund for our new 501c3 status.
4. Advocacy Report - Stephen and Michael met with Jacqui Bauer about getting charter on City Council agenda. It was a productive meeting with Jacqui requesting one revision to charter – governments changed to communities in the introduction line. While there were some concerns about the city using this to absolve themselves of any responsibility, it was noted that the city relationship to the charter could also be changed in the city council resolution. Also, with the expanded focus, we can introduce the charter to other community entities – ie., Cook, IU, etc., Jacqui recommended expediting to Adam, the mayor's Communication officer. We have the opportunity to suggest the charter via the Ask the Mayor radio call in show. The revision to the charter was passed. Jennifer will update it, and email it to Nikki for posting to the website.
5. Guest – Nikki introduced Teddie from Bioneers, who is planning a themester event that we may be able to crossover with. Teddie was previously a professor at the University of Louisville, though she completed her graduate work here at IU. She is looking for new projects as she transitions to life in Bloomington. She would like to reboot the Bioneers program in Bloomington after success with Louisville chapter. The free Bioneers conference will overlap with our October 25th Food Day/Pie event, since it runs from Friday the 24th at noon until Sunday at 6pm. Teddie will incorporate our event in the conference schedule and we may find other opportunities for mutual support. Megan suggested the Bloomington Visitor Center Grant as a funding source.

6. Assessment Report – The Growers Survey is now closed, and John announced his resignation as co-chair and with that from the Steering Committee. His resignation will come into effect July 31st after the next meeting. A group meeting will be scheduled shortly.
7. Education – Nikki and Stephanie met with Sara Minard, who has joined the Education working group. The September panelists are confirmed with representatives from New Ground Farm, Maple Valley Farm, No Coast Reserve, and Kroger. Piazza is also a potential. Annie Corrigan of Earth Eats will be moderating. They will contact panelists for topical suggestions. Food Day's description is set, and plans are made for a fruit tree maintenance class at the orchard. They are researching different food summit formats, and Nikki invited legislators and the mayor to attend.
8. Life Long Learning Week – Michael will be doing a lecture that Sunday to start off the week at Hilltop on the roles of public gardens and the Provost and Vice-Presidents of IU are invited.
9. County Meeting – Megan reported that the city will be cutting their zones in two, recognizing small farms and creating allowances for the construction of agricultural structures. It allows farm stands with some requirements such as adequate parking. There are some issues with setback, such as broader environmental impacts, and the wording has been muddled by developer involvement. The meeting is available for viewing on CATS.
10. No new updates on ImagineBloomington goals as the city's staffing transitions are keeping everyone busy.
11. Outreach Report – Nikki has joined the board of the Winter Farmer's Market. Also, her job with the Green House Hydroponics are starting a job training project at Stonebelt.
12. Membership Report – Angela reports that the website and membership forms are updated to reflect our new non-profit status. She has created a list of membership benefits to use in recruitment.
13. The next meeting will be July 23rd at Noon at Sweet Claire.