



27 August 2014 Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Absent: Stephen Hale

Guests: Ryan Conway

Meeting convened at 12:00 p.m.

1. Jennifer confirmed a quorum was present.
2. July steering committee meeting minutes were accepted by the chair with no additional revisions.
3. Treasurer's Report – Current balance is \$229.32 with the \$7.14 Indiana Business Entity report fee being our only recent expense. Nikki requested that we use some funds towards needs for Food Day, est. \$10 for thank you cards, \$20-30 possible cider cost. These items were approved and Dave will reimburse Nikki for these supplies. Nikki will get Tax ID from Dave for tax free purchases.
4. Membership Report – Angela did not have any new members to report. She suggested that we consider adding member names to our website, and while there were some concerns with member policy, it was agreed that we should at least have the Steering Committee listed. Angela will be running Big Red Eats Green on Sept. 10th, so there is a need for tabling help for the council at this event and this is a possible place to recruit new members.
5. Lifelong Learning Week (LLW) is another chance to recruit new members with its Urban Ag theme. It will run September 7-13th. On Sunday, Michael will be leading the kickoff at Hilltop will have a 2pm reception with snacks and 3pm lecture, with the grounds open until 5pm. Michael will also be doing a workshop at Hinkle Farmstead on the 12th, and the Hub will be hosting a Fermentation workshop on the 10th. Membership forms and flyers for the BFPC will be shared at all of these.
6. Assessment Report – The MCPL was unable to find a way to accommodate our map for a display, but it will be at the Food Chain Quarterly Meeting and Big Red Eats Green events. An outline for a city food system assessment report is drafted, and this will include the results from our recent survey.

7. Advocacy Report – Stephen was not present, so Michael reported that there was no recent news on the food charter, though the mayor responded very positively to the Ask Mayor inquiry, so the goal is to just get on the city council schedule. If needed, pressure can be added with HT editorials as well as collecting letters of support from other groups, ie. already have LGG and MHC.
8. Outreach – Nikki shared the Mayor’s response on our social media and in the most recent newsletter. The Newsletter was ready to go out after a few revisions. Amy Roche confirmed that the fruit tree class was set for Food Day.
9. Education – Megan brought flyers to share for the Food Chain event for everyone to distribute around town. All of the questions for the Food Chain event were confirmed and sent to panelists. We are still waiting to hear back from panelists about filming for CATS. Food Day is set for 2-4:30pm on October 25th. There was almost a scheduling conflict with the Orchard, but they adjusted their event plan. The pie class and fruit tree workshop are planned, and Megan will send out a press release for the event. Jennifer will share pie news with Pie of the Month Club members.
10. Announcements
 - a. Dave has bug spray with Deet that he would be willing to donate to anyone interested, which should only be sprayed on clothes, not skin, for protection.
 - b. At Big Red Eats Green, it was asked how we would like to raise awareness about the Food Charter and the importance of contacting local representatives. A petition will be included at the table with information about representatives.
 - c. The question of the deer taskforce and planned culling at Griffy Lake were discussed. The challenge of Home Owners Associations makes it difficult for the Food Policy Council to push for changes in permitted fence heights.
 - d. Megan is working on a project with James Farmer for the LGG looking at how to get food to low income populations from local farmers. It is still in the research stage. Stephanie suggested that Megan meet with her and Amanda.