

Johnson County Food Policy Council
Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 20, 2019
Johnson County Administration Building, 1st Floor Betty Sass Conference Room
913 S. Dubuque Street, Iowa City, IA 52240
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Attending Appointed Members: Chris Fortenbach, Craig Syrop, Dean Colony, Eric Christianson, Giselle Bruskewitz, Jessica Burt Fogarty, Keshia Fields, Kristy Walker, Liz Maas, Michael Wilson, Michelle Kenyon, Ron Bohnenkamp, Stephen Trefz

Attending Ex-Officio Members: Ilsa DeWald

Guests: Jeanne Strauzzi

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. Approve March and April 2019 Minutes
 - a. Moved and Approved e-copies
4. Updates + Discussion Pat Heiden BOS + Ilsa DeWald Local Foods Coordinator (LFC)
 - a. Pat was not able to make it
 - b. Data Analytics Project
 - i. Food Consumer Report Card
 1. Looked for old data and compared to new
 2. Most data comes from Ag Census
 - a. Huge increase in locally grown food consumption in the past 5 years.
 - b. However this data needs to be further review of the data set
 - c. Reviewed data on profit margins as well
 3. Need more relationships to collect better data
 4. BOS was receptive to increasing data based policy however need to review how time and costs of data collection and surveys need to be collected
 - a. Discussion on how to gather more data sources
 - b. How can this connect to the locally grown certification.
 - c. 21 Day Racial Equity Habits Building Challenge: group gathering after meeting
 - d. Applications close 23 May for positions on the JCFPC
5. Partnership Opportunities w/ other countries
 - a. Ilsa will work with Linn County Advisory Board to garner support
 - b. Letter of Support was motioned and passed
 - c. June 5th PM joint meeting Dubuque, Linn, Johnson County
6. Introduction to Ag Exemption, Eric Christianson
 - a. This is a confusing and complicated issue that have evolved since the concept was conceived in the 1950s

- b. Eric discussed the dynamics between state and county zoning along w/ Attorney General opinions which speaks to the fact that if the county has a reasonable process in place to determine exemption, they are good.
 - c. Concerns in all of this was a backdrop to skirt residential ordinances. Once the building is approved and built it is there even though the purpose is no longer ongoing. Hence concern about zoning + exemptions
- 7. Discuss Unified Development Ordinance Ag Exemption Memo
 - a. Review recommendations of stakeholders
 - b. Interested readers are encouraged to review memo in its entirety
 - c. Staff Work
 - i. What's the definition of agriculture?
 - 1. Does not include Ag Experiences as drafted
 - ii. Discussion ensued regarding their drying of flowers and garlic etc
 - iii. Further discussion about all the implications of exemptions which can open the door for CAFOs
 - iv. Discussion about what the application process can do to help sort out some of the nefarious intentions
 - v. Application process which includes viability measures is yet another point of discussion.
 - 1. While the BOS likes this measure it would be worth some discussion about what the viability measure means
 - vi. Recommendations:
 - 1. Formalize Local foods coordinator role in the application process
 - 2. Also recommendation to get more rural/Ag reps on the board of adjustment
 - 3. It would behoove the JCFPC to have some input to the application process.
 - vii. DRAFT will be out and ready for review before next meeting. Look to see if a group can draft a template application Michele, Giselle, Liz, Craig to the BOS in June
 - 1. Invite Stake Holders to June 17 FPC Meeting for input
- 8. Work Group Updates
 - a. Marketing: Discussion on getting more input from the community on UDO before the 'sausage is made' as well as getting folks to speak up later as well.
 - i. Using the County's Social Media
 - b. UDO Position Paper
 - i. Looking at Ag Exemptions
 - ii. Ag Tourism
 - iii. These groups need to collaborate
- 9. Updates
 - a. Food Hub: Launching 11 June
 - i. Wanting updates on data as to how folks are using the service.
- 10. Adjourned 7:56 PM