

**Johnson County Food Policy Council
Meeting Minutes**

Monday, June 15, 2020

Via Zoom Meeting # 869 9578 2463

Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87426834785>

6 p.m.

Attending Members: Kristy Walker, Michael Wilson, Molly Schintler, Shawn Meaney, Keisha Fields, Liz Maas, Michelle Kenyon; Giselle Bruskewitz

Supervisor: Pat Heiden

Attending Ex-Officio Member: Ilsa DeWald.

Guest: Katie Colony

1. Call to order (6:05 p.m.)
2. Introductions/Ice breaker
3. Deaton volunteered to take minutes.
4. March and May 2020 minutes, Shawn Meaney moved, Molly Schintler seconded, unanimous approval
5. General Updates and Discussion from Pat Heiden, Board of Supervisors, and Ilsa DeWald, Local Foods Coordinator (6:10 PM)

a. Food Policy Council Applications due Wednesday, August 5, 2020

At least 3-4 open positions. Please spread the word. Direct folks to Ilsa if there are any questions. Website here: https://www.johnson-county.com/dept_supervisors.aspx?id=10645

Ilsa DeWald Email: idewald@co.johnson.ia.us

b. Update about Johnson County Economic Development Committee

Luke from PDS interested in doing some research on economic development opportunities for local foods. Assessing what properties that we currently have that can be used for value-added agricultural projects.

C. Pat Heidan: The JC Admin Building is open by appointment. Addressing BLM issues. Kristy shares that it is difficult to hear the BOS members on the phone, so concerned about public hearings occurring virtually.

7. Discuss Impacts of HF 2477 and 2512 on Unified Development Ordinance (6:20 PM)

JC Code is not current with state law. Staff and Board of Supervisors are looking to allow Ag Experience legally.

2477: This change removed the ability of the County to permit uses that previously required a conditional use permit. This law did not make agricultural experiences a permitted use, it only removed the ability of the county to permit them as currently structured.

On all points of the UDO, The JCFPC has provided feedback. Do we want to provide feedback to the latest news?

The BOS plans to amend UDO to remove seasonal ag events, classes, etc. Add permitted use of ag experiences, a list or a definition that would be permitted uses with supplemental conditions which could include dust control, public health compliance, parking issues, etc.

Question: What direction will landowners receive for permitted uses with supplemental conditions?

Pat; If you are proceeding in good faith, no punitive actions from PDS or Johnson County, we support Ag experience. If someone is not in compliance, we will work with you to get you in compliance.

Molly: Agritourism and Ag experience are thrown out a lot and I want to say yes to both and what is near and dear to me with this change; there are essential parts of agricultural businesses that no longer need a permit. It goes beyond Ag Tourism and Ag experience; it is essential to connect the community with agriculture.

Kristy- Walker Homestead is lucky got permits in but Colony Pumpkin Patch is not so lucky.

Katie Colony: We don't understand where there is a question, where there is an issue. The way we read this is we are not required to be permitted, we wouldn't be considered illegal when we open. But because PDS/ BOS do not feel that way, we are in a terrible situation. With COVID, no matter what kind of agritourism, we have to do all these extra things. We don't want any issues. Glad to hear we won't be closed down. But we will have more hoops, more discussion. We waited because we don't have the extra \$500 for one event we would need a permit for.

Pat: From my vantage point,. embracing local foods and small farmers it is in the UDO it has been an initiative and we need to talk the talk and walk the walk; be sure we get where we want to be and support one another. People are concerned My commitment in that we the county, we are embracing, we support in any way that we can. If you are not in compliance, we will help get you from a to b and not put up road blocks. I hear you.

Molly Schintler make a motion to: The Johnson County Food Policy Council to make an official statement to the PDS/ BOS

Michelle Kenyon seconds;

Working Group: Kristy Walker and Ilsa DeWald will develop a strong draft to share with the council.

All those in favor: Unanimous support

8. Discuss Community Protests and Calls for Community Change, including "What does

Black Lives Matter mean to our food system? And, what does it mean to the Food Policy Council?" (6:45 PM)

Giselle: We are living in extremely challenging times right now. I want to open up the space for discussion. We have a food justice committee. Recognizing racial justice is food justice.

Discussion followed.

Giselle: thank you for everyone who answered the question and joined the conversation. I will send a follow-up email tomorrow.

9. Discuss Food Policy Council Action Items and Agenda for Next Meeting (7:30 PM)

a. Working Group Report Out and Timeline Set for Groups

Ilsa- committees: Local Food Education and Marketing Committee made up of Jill, Keisha and Michelle, met and had a discussion on encouraging Double Up Food Bucks. Other committees need to meet between now and next meeting.

FORUM: Ilsa will follow-up from individual members on forum notes and discussion groups.

10. Motion to adjourn: Molly Schlinter , Shawn Meaney, Second. Unanimous

2020 meetings approved 10/21/19

June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, December 14

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