

Minutes

Food Policy Council

July 20th, 6-8pm

1. Call to order at 6:08 with quorum
In attendance: Kristy Walker, Liz Maas, Jill Irvin, Ilsa DeWald, Pat Heiden, Sofia Mehaffey, Keshia Fields, Molly Schintler, Michelle Kenyon Brown, Giselle Bruskewitz
And visitors included: Aryn McLaren from Iowa Healthiest State Initiative, Natalie Veldhouse, Iowa Policy Project
2. Introductions: “What is your favorite place to eat in Johnson County?”
Attendees mentioned, Oasis, Nodo, Walker Homestead, Any where they don’t have to do the prep or cleanup and can eat with friends they like. Salt Fork farm restaurant is closing – very sad.
3. Discuss Interim Appointment or Election of Food Policy Council Secretary
Liz Maas volunteered to take minutes for this meeting
4. Approve June 2020 minutes
Keisha Fields moved to approve minutes from June 2020, Giselle Bruskewitz seconded the motion, motion passed
5. Presentation and Discussion on Double up Food Bucks by Aryn McLaren – Kim Reynolds: *“Double Up Food Bucks connects low-income families with healthy food grown by Iowa farmers. Increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables is key to growing healthier communities and stimulating a stronger economy. Double Up is a win for Iowa:”*. Aryn has fliers (in English and Spanish) to share to spread the word on the program. WIC programs, and Head Start programs help to spread the word. New Pi, farmer’s markets, Fareway, etc. participate in this program. Hy-Vee would like to do a QR code for redemption instead of the vouchers.
6. Discussion about Double up Food Bucks (reach out to Aryn at: aryn@iowahealthieststate.com)

Open for questions:

- Question: How does it work?

At the register when you use your EBT card, then the produce you purchase is calculated by the register. Max is 10\$ per visit. When I purchase 10\$ then I get 10\$ in vouchers to buy another 10\$ value of produce. Can be used at same time (turn right around) or use at another location or farmers market.

- Question: How do we know how much people are spending/using this program?

Dept. of Human Services has a website that has a month by month for each county “f-1 food assistance reports” (<https://dhs.iowa.gov/reports/food-assistance-reports/f1-report-v2>)

Natalie Veldhouse, IPP, gave a short presentation about SNAP and how it has changed since Covid-19. SNAP is federally funded, but state can change eligibility. State has expanded maximum amount of SNAP benefits, eased work requirements, time limits, etc. At FED level advocacy for increasing SNAP during Covid – like 25\$/person/month. Janee Harvey and Melanie

Mathes are points of contact for more information at Iowa DHS. (See PowerPoints attached to these minutes)

Open for Questions:

- It appears that there was money that wasn't "spent" last year? Why not? Double up food bucks that were collected, but not redeemed? Are perhaps what you are talking about. Since we DID spend all of our funding for double up food bucks. With the CARES funding they did get a little money to help advertise and reach other venues for marketing.

- How do we get the info?

Sign up for Healthiest state newsletter <http://www.iowahealthieststate.com/news/momentum-newsletter/>

- What can we do to help?

Advertise for us, earn money at Fareway can take money to farmer's market and help support local producers. Best way to spread info about the program is by word of mouth

- Set date for vendors to apply for double up food bucks?

No we are not accepting anymore grocery store applications but we are accepting farmers market vendors and farmers to apply.

- If a farmer applies they have to be able to accept EBT?

Yes, to take in you have to have a federal FNS number. If you are connected to a farmer's market it works, (but now with Covid and our online market it isn't happening right now.) Can't pay more than 2 weeks on a EBT card, so for CSA's that can be an issue, but Healthiest state does work with CSA's.

- There was a dropdown column when I signed a petition for SNAP, how do you organize classification for advocacy?

It depends on how a senator considers the issue

- What would you recommend we identify it?

Their staffers are trying to collect info on what people care about related to sheer volume for what people care about?

7. Food Justice Discussion, Let's Talk about Race, Led by Keshia Fields (6:45 PM)

Keshia hosted a Kahoot related to race related issues

Questions/Answers:

- How comfortable are you talking about Race?
 - Feel Exhausted talking about it.
 - Feel comfortable, but the conversation can be tense, expect and accept non-closure
- Hard Part talking about racism is:
 - Speaking with older people who you are supposed to be respectful of
 - Gaslighting and reflection – people won't even have a conversation about it with you
 - Talking with your kids especially with all that has been going and outside influences
- The beneficial part of talking about race or racism is:
 - Its like flexing a muscle, by having a dialogue you are hearing/listening to their perspective, gaining language,
 - Understanding perspectives

- Wholeness – understanding what happened in our culture, being honest
- Save lives, if not for this generation for the next one
- Talking can become an action and cause change
- What do you feel a discussion about race or racism will expose about you?
 - “Expose” feels like it is a bad thing to happen
 - Trying to listen and “lean in” even when it makes you uncomfortable, be in the moment, engaged
 - Sharing your vulnerabilities helps you see that others are in the same boat
 - Privilege
- Do you feel ill-prepared to talk about racism?
 - How do you handle micro aggressions and helping white people do a better job when you are already worn out from hearing/dealing with micro-aggressions every day, all day long?
- Organize these steps to combating racism
 - Take small actions, educate yourself, be comfortable being uncomfortable, talk to others (there is no correct order)
- Other things to share?
 - Kahoot is a good way to do this
 - Educating is a good thing, but is it a way to avoid doing something and taking action?
 - But taking action needs to be organized and thoughtful.
 - Really appreciate the conversation today! Talking the talk and walking the walk here in the council and in your private life.

8. General Updates and Discussion from Pat Heiden, Board of Supervisors,

- Just back from a Joint entities meeting – discussed Mayor Teague preparing for proclamation tomorrow – there will be a mask mandate. ICCSD is going to seek a waiver from the governors’ proclamation to do 50% face to face learning and continue with their plan to do 100% online learning.
- BOS (?) 1st Meeting that was online and difficult to call-in regarding revisions to 3 amendments to UDO were approved (first reading), Pat can send Executive Summary from staff if anyone wants it. If you are on the agenda you can attend the meeting, but they only allow 10 people at a time in the room.
- BOS Work Session - will be talking about House File (HF 2477 and 2512 on Unified Development Ordinance) Ag Experience at work session this week.

9. General Updates and Discussion from Ilsa DeWald, Local Foods Coordinator

- a. Ilsa reviewed notes from Meeting Agenda for July 22 work session, these were attached to the materials sent to council members prior to this meeting.
- b. Discuss Recommendation Draft for Impacts of HF 2477 and 2512 on Unified Development Ordinance (7:15 PM)

Discussion: What if you already have permits for this year, are they still good?

- What about farmers who are waiting to see how this shakes out so they can apply for their events – sitting in limbo? Trying to be proactive to do their best and don’t want to be blindsided.

- If Pat can give us any updates and plan for when the process is going to be made?
 - Can definition of “primarily” grown on your farm be expanded to include products from another local farm?
 - Why are weddings called out?
- c. Food Policy Council Applications due Wednesday, August 5, 2020 please share with someone you think should join the Food Policy Council
 - d. New council members will be accepted by BOS, then Ilsa will onboard before the Aug meeting
 - e. Elections for Food Policy Council Leadership Team in August – Kristy is stepping down after her 2-year commitment as chair.
 - f. Working group work – good job! Please add to Agenda, let Ilsa know! So she can take to the leadership committee.
10. Adjourn – Motion by Jill Irvin, seconded by Giselle, motion carried unanimously