

**Johnson County Food Policy Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, September 21, 2020**

**Via Zoom Meeting # 869 9578 2463**

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

**6 p.m.**

**Attending Members:** Ayman Sharif, Bill Weedman, Debbie Klein, Giselle Bruskwitz, Hannah Shultz, Jill Irvin, Joe Klingelhutz, Keshia Fields, Kristy Walker, Liz Maas, Molly Schintler, Shawn Meaney, Will Kapp

**Supervisor:** Pat Heiden

**Attending Ex-Officio Member:** Ilsa DeWald

**Guest:** Ed Williams

**1. Call to order (6:00 PM)**

**2. Introductions**

**Debbie Klein:** trying to bridge the gap between students and food, works at Clear Creek Amana

**Ayman Sharif:** Graduated from Iowa as an Urban Planner, local food production is key to linking new arrivals to established people of a place, central mission of Global Food Project, which he established starting with community garden plots at the Johnson County Historic Poor Farm

**Hannah Shultz:** previously worked with WIC national policy, back in the area after a few years  
**Will Kapp:** public school teacher, worked on farms in Iowa, MN, WA, restaurant and stores, know farmers, know the schools,

**Joe Klingelhutz:** grew up in Johnson County, went to school in Solon, SILT as Farm Specialist, cooperatively farm and raise honey bees, believe that JC has room to grow in local foods, friends with farmers, see the passion that they have and want to continue to grow it here

**Jill Irvin:** Director of UI Housing and Dining--always trying to increase the amount of local product served on campus, committed to local food opportunities and landscape within the county

**Shawn Meaney:** Iowa native and grew up in Dubuque County small farm (ISU grad) left the state to work in big food and beverage orgs 20+ years before ConAgra Foods, ran it as a private equity owner CEO, come back over to the local food side, CEO and partner in Buckcreek Distributing, hops processing and distributing, focus on inputs, was former chair of Iowa Business Alliance (Chamber), Vice Chair of Table to Table

**Giselle Bruskwitz:** Serves as Food Hub manager of Field to Family, witness first hand what the recommendations can do, excited to get to know everyone as well as expanding access to farmers and community members

**Ed Williams:** Guest, farmland owner, retired conventional farmer, currently renting land to two Sudanese community members who are raising sheep and goats

**Keshia Fields:** Inclusion & equity specialist for the county, part of the food justice group, new to farming concepts, has volunteered for Grow: Johnson County, strong interest in public health and health equity

**Pat Heiden:** member of Board of Supervisors, finishing up the second year, retired after 36 years at Oaknoll, 22 years as Executive Director, born and raised on a dairy farm, and has had the pleasure of learning a lot about local food

**Molly Schintler:** Farmer as a part of the team at Echollective Farm, close to 10 years farming experience, grow lots of vegetables, sell to grocery stores, restaurants, and people beyond, Farm to School Network, served with Food Corps, worked at Grinnell college with institutional purchasing, center racial and social

justice on the council,

**Liz Maas:** Teaches biology and environmental science at Kirkwood college, grew up on a working farm with horses and livestock and rented row crop, brings an ecologist perspective, protecting biodiversity through local foods systems is a major way to reduce our carbon

### **3. Elect Johnson County Food Policy Council Chair (6:20 PM)**

Molly nominates Giselle, Shawn seconds the nomination, Giselle gave a short speech  
Keshia moves to vote, Liz seconds, Ayes have it  
Giselle is elected Food Policy Council Chair

### **4. Approve July 2020 minutes** Jill moves, Kristy seconds, Unanimous Approved

### **5. Presentation by Ed Williams about Local Meat Processing Unified Development Ordinance Amendment Request (6:40 PM)**

Ed described how he started 5 years ago with folks renting land to raise sheep and lamb and last March they began the process of converting a corncrib that was built in the 1950's, multi-use facility, to fit IDALS requirements for custom slaughter and processing.

Ilsa's recap of the amendment for animal slaughter and processing in the agriculture district:

- Closed building
- Max 50 animal units (50 cows, 500 sheep/goats, 5000 chickens)
- Follow all IDALS regulations and DNR wastewater
- No on-site retail sales unless otherwise permitted
- Goes to the BOS in October at their night meeting (5:30 PM)

Kristy moves to draft language to support the amendment with emphasis on the future increase of the number, specifically doubling the number allowed, Jill seconds, Motion approved unanimously

### **6. Food Justice Discussion, Ron Finley Guerrilla Gardening Ted Talk (7:00 PM)**

Discussion among council members talking about the opportunities for urban ag in our county, communities being able to take care of themselves and know what they need, and how involving youth is important.

Liz asked council members to submit suggestions for food equity discussion prompts or media pieces to the Food Justice Team.

### **7. Food Policy Council Working Groups Introductions/Report Out (7:15 PM)**

Infrastructure: We are in the process of further defining and bringing other entities in also looking for folks on the buying side of the equation

Food Justice: Discussing might food justice work look like on the council (building relationships with individual community members or organizations working in the food system or in justice work to lead us, show us, bring a justice focus center to our council, and radiate out to all food organizations in the coalition, met with Iowa City Freedom Riders, preliminary meeting, going to have a follow-up meeting)

Food Marketing/Education: Jill Irvin, & Keshia Fields: Double up Food Bucks, encouraging more vendors to sign up, help in marketing can we utilize the county's social media, doing it ahead of time, setting dates for marketing, following up to see how effective

Equipment Sharing: Kristy Walker, equipment sharing, build an app to support library check-in and check-out

## **8. General Updates and Discussion from Pat Heiden, Board of Supervisors, and Ilsa DeWald, Local Foods Coordinator (7:30 PM)**

### **a. Agricultural Experience Amendments to Unified Development Ordinance**

Pat had to leave before the update. Ilsa summarized amendment:

HF2477 removed the ability of counties to permit "agricultural experiences" through special use or conditional zoning permits including Seasonal Agricultural Events and other home business permits Amendment Adds Agriculture Experience as a definition to Ag, Agritourism districts with the conditions:

- Food served must feature food grown on-site
- Excluded weddings specifically
  - Weddings would have to be permitted as Special Events (14- 100+ person)

Amendment Changes in Agritourism Zoning district

- Add event centers with unlimited weddings and event closely related to ag
- Removes unlimited events of any type under 50 people

Council members commented that it was good to see the UDO in alignment with state law.

### **b. IDALS grant for food hubs, farmers, and school districts**

As a network of food policy councils, we had been planning a funding request to support local food systems. After Giselle and Ilsa had worked on a rough project outline, throughout conversations, we found out funding had already been given to IDALS for a very similar purpose. \$500,000 was given to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship from CARES Act funding; the funding was organized into grants for schools, farms, and food hubs to support infrastructure improvements and/or local food purchasing dollars for schools and farms to support local sourcing. Grant applicants will hopefully hear back soon.

## **9. Food Policy Council Action Items and Agenda for Next Meeting (7:45 PM)**

**Motion to Adjourn, Kristy moves, Molly seconds, Meeting ends at 8:01 PM**