

Lake County Community Food Council

Minutes August 14, 2017

Participating: Leo Heska, Sally Mellema, Nancy Przedwojewski, Ruth Lorager Jr., Kendra Gibson, Lynne Mills, Kathy Merchant, Ron Schneider, Kendra Wills, Sue Brown-Havens, Joe Dukes, Paul Betts

Welcome & Introduction of new members

- I. Review and accept minutes of July meeting. Approved with motion from Leo and support from Kathy.
- II. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Wayne was out of town. He did not submit a report.
 - b. Bread of Life Pantry was able to order the label maker and shelves with funding support from the DHD #10.
 - c. Sally noted that the EatFit work will hopefully continue. They aren't sure if they will have funding to fully fund all of their outreach projects starting in the new fiscal year (Oct 1). They are seeking grant funds for projects (\$5,000 or so range).

III. Old Business

A. Review 501c3 paperwork

- a. Kendra distributed a draft document about the history of the organization for the group's review. Please email Kendra Wills with comments/edits.
- b. Kendra Wills still has \$850 check for filling. Still waiting for state charitable tax status paperwork.

B. Idlewild Community Gardens

- Tanya has the receipts. Gardens are in and growing, fence is up. Green beans, corn, kale, greens are growing at the garden. 8 raised beds currently.
- Perhaps out next meeting could be in Idlewild. Joe will check.
- Note: Tanya is putting together a health expo at the school in the gym on Sunday, September 17 from 2-4 PM. The Food Council is invited to have a booth and others as well.
- Workshops on how to grow for the community at the community garden will be held.
- Sally suggested that the church could hold canning classes and be a site for checking out lending kits.

C. Canning Workshops

Need more publicity on the local level. Only five are signed up for the three remaining classes. Front page article on the Hollester Senior Center bean canning class from the Lake County Star.

Thursday is a farmers market at DHD #10 and Paul is willing to distribute information on the canning kits. He could have a kit there to show people. Lynne would like to give away some eggs as well. Kendra Gibson offered to help organize canning classes next year and MSUE will take a couple of kits for lending.

Perhaps this can be advertised at the Health Expo at the school as well. Sally volunteered to set up a booth to advertise the canning workshops.

Canning Kit Distribution:

- 4 - Joe Dukes
- 3 - Sally Mellema
- 3 - Nancy Przedwojewski
- 1 - Paul Betts
- 2 - Kendra Gibson

D. Spectrum Health Care Project

Started last week in the line for the pantry. Had 22 people that were interested. Will be doing a survey next week. \$25 Meijer card incentive. Targeting pre-diabetics and offering healthy cooking information. This feed into the cook book idea that the Food Council could support. Spectrum is really excited about this project.

E. Eat Fit NW Mich. Project

Barski and Irons Café are doing an EatFit menu, Na-ta-ka North and Marquette Trails implemented EatFit as well. They also did some data gathering from customers. Kathy reported that on Sundays she has been going to Marquette Trails. She has tried five different items on the EatFit menu and all have been delicious. Marquette Trails is at the golf course. Chris is using produce from her garden and is adding a farmers market. Chris is also a Lake County Commissioner.

Nancy asked about what will happen to EatFit after October 1 because there is no funding for staff time after this date. Sally is estimating that it would take about \$5,000 to continue this project with staffing from DHD #10.

F. Farmer's Market Report

A flyer was distributed on the DHD #10 market.

G. Food Council Banner

Funding source?

Chris Johnson is willing to help with the graphics. Cost is less than \$40 through Vista Print. There should be enough funds in the account for this.

III. New Business

A. Appoint new Secretary for LCCFC

Still seeking nominations. Leo's last meeting is today.

B. Future meeting schedule

Meeting at Idlewild next month if Joe's church approves. Need directions from Joe. Ask Tanya to be there as well. Ask Shanna Avery from the Lake County Star to attend to photograph the gardens.

October – Pam Daniels from MSU Extension will be speaking on information pantries can distribute related to diabetes management and prevention. Sue Brown-Havens will bring information on how to do Zoom meetings. This type of remote online meeting might be needed in the winter months.

November 13 – open house at MSUE office 4-6 PM. No regular meeting in November (voting via email if necessary). The Food Council will have a table.

C. DHD# 10 Chronic Disease Summit

Nancy encouraged members to attend. Topics: Nutrition and tobacco cessation.

D. Form a Committee for investigating grants and other income sources for upcoming projects

1. A committee was not formed.

2. Kendra encouraged members to participate in a webinar about applying for a USDA Food Grant

2. Possible Fund Raisers:

Farm dinner was suggested.

Watermelon sale. Friday and Saturday before Labor Day. Team members: Paul Betts, Nancy, Sue. Paul will help with signage and securing the watermelons.

(Note: the post office has a food drive each spring.)

E. Discuss –How to get all Lake County Food Pantries on board

a. Nancy will be mailing out a letter to area pantries. May include Reed City and Hart pantries.

F. Working with 4-H & the Patio Gardens Project in the spring

a. Nancy is cutting milk jugs for next year already.

Meeting adjourned at 5:12 PM