

Lake County Community Food Council Minutes July 10, 2017

Participants: Sue Brown-Havens, Leo Heska, Nancy P., Paul Betts, Kathy Merchant, Lynne Mills, Joe Duke, Wayne Eversole, Carl Merchant, Jordan DeVries, Kendra Gibson, Kendra Wills, and Rena Martin (intern with Kendra Wills)

Introductions were made and the June minutes were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report – Wayne Eversole

- Kendra, Wayne and Rena met today and completed the IRS Form 1023. Rena will be assisting with the development of the required attachments.
- Filing for corporation 501c3 requires paperwork from the State of Michigan verifying that we earned non-profit corporation status with the state. Wayne mailed in the paperwork to the state last month with the \$20 fee.
- Kendra Wills was given a check for \$850 for the IRS filing.
- We believe approval from the IRS for 501c3 status could take up to 6 months
- Canning workshop expenses and lending kits:
 - \$108.40 check from the Food Council to Sally for lending kit supplies
 - Irons church reimbursement for supplies spent
- Discussions for larger grants still on the table for this fall.
 - The Food Council needs to get active on grant applications.
 - Please review: USDA community food grant (<https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/community-food-projects-cfp-competitive-grants-program>)

III. Old Business

A. Review of DHD #10 Grant Funds:

Idlewild Community Gardens

- Beds are in place at the church site
- Should be planting any day now
- All funds approved through the health department must be sent by July 31st
- A check for the full grant amount was given to Tonya Scales by Wayne.

B. Voices for Food Grant

- \$400 for hunters' safety classes and banners will be spent by July 31.
- Leo will be stepping down as secretary of the Food Council board this fall. He was able to secure two grants from the Lake County Community Foundation. One for hunters safety classes and one for literacy. The group thanked Leo for his service.

C. Multicultural Workshop on June 27 Report

- Explored privilege in terms of how it impacts other people in their lives
- Generational differences and how it can create unintended misunderstandings
- How did this seminar help each of us?
 - Older individuals understanding younger generation
 - Teaching individuals to be aware of the things they may say that accidentally insult those of other races, cultures, and generations
 - “I found that this seminar held my attention and gave hands on activities that were informational”
 - “We recognize that these problems exist...but this workshop showed us how to solve them”
 - “Builds a curiosity and openness to listen and learn from other people that our different from us”

Plans to repeat the Seminar?

- There appears to be interest in bringing Dionardo back for another training session.

D. Canning Workshops Report

- The first workshop had 9 attendees
- Only 2 for the second class, but both individuals enjoyed themselves
- Third class had 7 attendees who were all open to participation
- Plans to schedule more classes knowing Jane’s open availability
- Suggestion to post flyers at the Tikki Hut produce stand to facilitate canning their produce

E. Bread of Life as Choice Food Pantry-How is it going?

- 68 families served in first week
- 48 families in second week
- All like the idea of being able to choose their items
 - Beneficial to ask the community what products they prefer
- There is more interaction and people are getting to know their neighbors
- Increased volunteer levels in the pantry as a result: 3 people escorting, 1 person checking in, 1-2 doing stock, 1-2 helping outside
 - Plans to expand to more volunteers (at least 6)
- The client choice model has results in a change in stocking
 - Diced tomatoes, chicken, peanut butter are not as popular as pantry volunteers thought they would be.

F. Paul Betts update on Grand Valley State University and Spectrum Health Care Project

- Screenings will be held at the Bread of Life Pantry for pre-diabetics to get early diagnosis that can be reversed
 - \$100,000 put into this project, ready to launch August 19th
 - Partnerships with Ferris State
 - Grand Valley nutritionist will also be on site
- G. Eat Fit NW MI. Report: How do we need to stay involved with this project?
- North location in Irons is the only launch so far
 - Goal: App launched with of all Eat Fit Lake County restaurant menus.
- E. District Health Department #10 Farmers Market
- Thursday, July 20th & Thursday, August 17th
 - Lake County Office Parking lot, 5681 S. M 37, Baldwin
 - Tikki hut now participates in the Double Up Food Bucks program! For every \$20 spent with a Bridge Card, \$20 worth of Michigan produce can be earned every day! Spread the word! Churches are encourages to drive van loads of people to Tikki Hut to shop. \$20 per day is a great deal of free, healthy food. This also is a great benefit to support the Tikki Hut.

IV. New Business

- A. Need for additional volunteer to work on a banner for the Food Council.
- a. Joe Dukes volunteered to work with Chef Chris Johnson on this project and will print through Vista Print (banners are on sale).
 - b. Funding source??
- DHD #10 Chronic Disease Summit – Sally Mellema
 - Presentations of projects on chronic disease prevention at Ferris State
 - Possibilities of food council members speaking
 - Nancy is willing to give a 12 minute presentation on how the council is working to bring people together
 - Update from Jordan with the Mason-Lake Conservation District
 - Free sample screening/testing for well water safety at Lake County MSU Extension-Baldwin
 - Thursday July 13th 9 am-4 pm
 - 830 Michigan Ave Baldwin, MI 49304
 - Must be residents of western 8 townships of Lake County

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Rena Martin, MSU Extension Summer Intern