



Lake County Community Food Council

Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 10, 2016

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

St. Ann's Church Community Meeting Room Baldwin, MI

Participants: Jane Hart, Sue Brown-Havens, Kathy Merchant, Carl Merchant, Nancy Przedwojewski, Sally Mellema, Meryl Smith, Anne Bianchi, Kendra Gibson, Leo Heska, Freddie Rosado, Chris Johnson, Paul Betts, Kendra Wills

Minutes submitted by Kendra Wills, MSU Extension

1. Introductions and Minutes: Nancy took the minutes for last month's meeting. She remembers emailing them to Kendra Wills; however, Kendra does not remember receiving them. We will work on having them for the November meeting. The group verbally reported on what was discussed at the September meeting.
2. Brainstorm ideas for 2017
 - a. Community reception for food pantry expansion
 - i. April 2017 (exact date will be set in February)
 - ii. Perhaps in combination with Rogation Day where we could give out plants to attendees.
 - iii. \$1,000 is our best guess for a budget (this includes food)
 - iv. Marketing: schools, churches, flyers
 - b. Canning Kits
 - i. Jane Hart with MSUE is on-board to serve as a class instructor.
 - ii. Using the funds from the DHD #10 grant to purchase canning kit supplies (12) from the Baldwin Hardware Store. Canners are in but the kits are not in yet.
 - iii. We will need a location to store these supplies. Kendra Gibson will check with the Lake County MSUE office to see if there might be secure storage there.
 - iv. These kits will be used through a lending library. We need to determine who will manage this lending process. The Bread of Life Pantry does not have the staff capacity to do this.
 - v. Yates Township might be another possibility for storage. Freddie said he will talk with Denny to see if he could store the equipment.
 - vi. The Commerce Department might be another possibility.
 - c. Sally reported that there may be another \$5000 in grants next year and perhaps these funds could be used to create locked storage areas at several food pantries to create lending libraries in several locations.
 - i. Nancy noted that her pantry would love to have some kits.
 - d. Canning Classes
 - i. Jane Hart with MSU Extension has agreed to serve as an instructor for the canning classes in 2017.
 - ii. Kathy felt that the St. Ann's Kitchen is not appropriate for the canning classes because they are only licensed as warm up kitchen. It does not have a hood for cooking. Jan Hart says she thinks it would be fine because she teaches home canning classes and only a hot surface is needed for water bath canning.



- iii. Perhaps we could rent another facility for the classes. Some possibilities are: the Senior Center kitchen (after 1 pm), Hollester, Yates Fire department, Senior Center in Idlewild, the Starting Block in Hart, or at the Lion's Club in Luther. Maybe we need to send out a notice to determine which kitchens could host a hands-on home canning workshop.
 - 1. Jane isn't in favor of outside canning classes. (Wind, weather, etc.)
 - iv. We are thinking about peaches or pears in August, jams and jellies, and tomatoes in September. It is possible to do jam with frozen strawberry jam in the early spring.
 - v. We also discussed food safety certification. There is a program through Idaho Extension for food safety training certification that Jane is researching.
 - vi. TO DO: Write a notice to have people contact us if organizations would like to host canning classes. This notice can be a project for early 2017.
- e. Garden in a Box Project? Do we want to do this again in 2017. Perhaps we can just give out plants in plastic containers and not build the boxes since that takes so much time and resources.
3. Draft VFF budget for 2017 and/or new DHD #10 \$5,000 for FY 2016-17
- a. \$1,000 reception
 - b. \$600 for Garden in a box: soil, box supplies, plants, plants for people who bring their box from last year
 - c. (DHD grant) Canning classes: need mashers and spoons, lids, rings. Paul has a source for jar donations. Leo will price stuff out for a follow-up request. Perhaps we could post a notice that we are seeking canning jars for the lending library. People who come to the classes will also be encouraged to bring their own jars. Leo suggested \$500 for canning jars.
 - d. \$1,000 laptop and software for Lynne for the pantry and labels and ink for label maker.
 - e. \$500 for advertising/marketing: flyers for pantry bag, newspaper articles and ads, Facebook boosts, add our meeting to the Lake County Star community calendar (Chris Johnson will help lead these efforts.)
 - f. Kendra Wills noted that perhaps the Food Council could apply for MSU Center for Regional Food System mini grants for our local food councils to grow farming entrepreneurs in Lake County. She will bring more information on this to a future meeting
 - i. We could offer small grants to help farmers meet with Score or MSU Product Center counselors and develop a business plan.
4. Discussion on the process for the council to pursue 501c3 status
- a. Some felt that if we don't do this, this council might dissolve because we wouldn't be able to secure funding for projects.
 - b. Kendra will email out the bylaws and articles of incorporation that Paul Betts has drafted.
 - c. Working on these documents will be the focus of our November meeting. Everyone will be asked to review this before the next meeting.



- d. Kendra Gibson will ask if VVF funds could be used to hire an attorney to review the documents before filing.

5. Project Updates

a. DHD #10 CDC grant project - Meryl

- i. They will be conducting a breastfeeding at work training for employers.
- ii. Barski Restaurant menu is almost completed. Nov. 14 at 12:30 p.m. is debut of healthy menu. (Subject to confirmation by restaurant.)
- iii. Save-a-lot will also participate in the healthy food labeling.
- iv. Home Depot grant for community garden is due December 31. Working to support the Idlewild garden project.

b. Real Hunger Games - Leo

- i. Hunters Safety class scheduled for October 22 in Baldwin.
- ii. DHD #10 is willing to post this class on their Facebook page.
- iii. We haven't had a hunters safety class in Lake County for many years. This will be held at the Sportsmen's Club. Leo is a hunter safety instructor. There are only 3 instructors in Lake County. He would like to have 20 in the county. October 22 they can get the certification to become instructors as well.
- iv. Kathy will give flyers to Meryl about venison donation. Kathy will also get some flyers to Leo to distribute at the Sportsmen Club about venison donation.
- v. Leo will email Kendra Wills details on the event for distribution.

c. Food pantry expansion – Kathy and Carl

- i. The drywall is hung.
- ii. Walk in freezer/cooler unit is going to be installed this week or early next week.
- iii. Individual labor help has been hard to secure.
- iv. Bathroom plumbing might be the last thing done.

d. Idlewild community garden.

- i. Joe did not attend the meeting. DHD #10 staff reported that Janika (with the church where the garden is building built) has been in contact with them about the Idlewild community garden project. Freddie is mentoring Joe but Joe is still the lead on this project.
- ii. We hope that the community garden will charge rent for private plots that people must maintain. Perhaps there will also be public seating and activities so the community will embrace the project.
- iii. Paul Betts has a source for donated mulch if you want to connect with him on that.

- 6. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. Next meeting: November 14, 2016 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at St. Ann's Church