



Lake County Community Food Council

Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 14, 2016

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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

Participants: Ellen Kerans, John Drake, Larry Lewis, Jordan DeVries, Tom Ellis, Sue Brown-Havens, Kathy Merchant, Nancy Przedwojewski, Sally Mellema, Meryl Smith, Anne Bianchi, , Leo Heska, Ruth Lorenger Jr., Paul Betts, Kendra Wills, Tamnya Scales, Joe Dukes

Minutes submitted by Kendra Wills, MSU Extension

1. Introductions and Minutes: Everyone had a chance to introduce himself/herself as there were new attendees. The minutes were approved by consensus.
2. 501(c)(3) Organizational Models
 - a. Kendra Wills introduced the activity to review three organizational models and to list the pros and cons of each. A handout was distributed with information about the three models and participants were asked to work individually to brainstorm ideas. The following ideas were collected from the group:
 - i. Forming an Independent 501c3
 1. Pros
 - a. Autonomy
 - b. Board of Directors
 - c. Paid Staff
 - d. Better chance of getting attention
 - e. Control of funding
 - f. Can apply for grants
 - g. Indemnification
 - h. Flexibility with mission to respond to emerging issues
 2. Cons:
 - a. More paperwork
 - b. The need for legal review
 - c. More time to implement/staff
 - d. Finding directors can sometimes be a challenge
 - e. Totally responsible (not sharing the burden with another organization)
 - ii. Affiliation with a local or county governmental unit
 1. Pros
 - a. Created the potential for funding stability
 - b. Could get moving sooner
 - c. Additional funding sources to tap
 2. Cons:
 - a. Political red tape
 - b. Tied to their agenda
 - c. Having to report to the community is extra work
 - d. Lack of timeliness in decision making
 - e. Lack of interest in our council by governmental units to date (no clear partner)



- iii. Affiliate with another 501c3
 - 1. Pros:
 - a. Quick access to 501c3
 - b. More support
 - c. Less paperwork to form 501c3
 - d. More funding opportunities by using organization's network
 - e. Fosters community collaboration
 - f. Strength in numbers
 - g. Collaboration is desired by funders
 - h. Longer history is better for grants
 - 2. Cons:
 - a. Lack of control
 - b. Things might get bogged down between organizations.
 - c. There might not be enough shared interest
 - d. Differences that may arise
 - e. Some doors might be closed for funding (for example: some funders won't fund religious organizations)
 - f. We don't have a clear partner to affiliate with
- b. Mr. Larry Lewis was asked by MSU Extension and Freddie Rosado to attend the meeting and provide his input on the proposed template Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws presented at the October meeting. Mr. Lewis distributed a handout with his input, which will be attached to these minutes. He feels the mission of the organization needs to be defined in these documents and a focus on gardening and farm development to increase access to healthy local foods should be considered.
 - i. Many members of the group agreed with Mr. Lewis' comments and felt that they should be added to the documents.
- c. After some discussion the group determined that forming an independent 501c3 organization was the best option as there are no other clear partners at this time. The group believes that the organization's fate will mostly be determined by the individuals involved and not necessarily by the structure.
 - i. Work will begin on the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws at the December meeting.
 - ii. MSU Extension will make sure VFF funds can be used to hire an attorney to review legal documents and ensure that proper procedures are followed.
 - iii. MSU Extension will seek out attorneys with experience in forming 501c3 local food councils. The group will select an attorney to work with starting in 2017.



3. Review and approve MSU Center for Regional Food Systems \$5,000 Seed Grant
 - a. The group reviewed a proposal drafted by Leo, Sue, Paul and Kendra Wills to support the 2017 Garden-in-a-box project, hunters safety classes, community garden projects and canning workshops/lending kits. If awarded, this grant would require members to attend Michigan Food Hub Network meetings and to travel to collaborate with other local food councils in the Traverse City and Grand Rapids region.
 - b. It was noted that the diversity section of the proposal was a challenge and some members did not agree with all of the statements drafted. The funder is requiring information about how the local food council is involving representatives from all demographic groups in the community. Freddie Rosado may not want his name attached to this proposal. Leo volunteered to contact him to determine if this was the case.
 - c. The group determined that the proposal should be submitted as drafted by the November 30 deadline and that Nancy, Leo and Sue should be listed as contacts if Freddie does not want to be listed.
4. Trinity Health Screenings
 - a. Paul has a contact from Muskegon willing to conduct basic health screenings of pantry clients. Kathy was supportive of this and she and Paul will work on scheduling this.
5. Idlewild Community Garden Funding from DHD #10
 - a. The DHD #10 was not able to get a check cut for the Idlewild garden supplies before September 30. Funding will have to come out of the current fiscal year funding. Sally will be in contact with Joe about this.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. Next meeting: December 12, 2016 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at St. Ann's Church