



## Lake County Community Food Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 8, 2016

3:30 p.m. at St. Ann's Church in Baldwin

**Participants:** Leo Heska, Freddie Rosado, Nancy Przedwojewski, Anne Bianchi, Joe Dukes, Tom Ellis, Kathy Merchant, Lynne Mills, Chris Johnson, Sally Mellema, Meryl Smith, Kendra Gibson, Kendra Wills, Erin Barrett, Gordie Moeller

**Guests:** Marty Gerencer, Morse Marketing Associates and Quinney Harris, National WIC Association

1. Welcome and Introductions – Freddie Rosado, Chairperson
2. Quick review of last month's minutes. Any corrections?
  - a. No corrections were offered.
3. Update on the Bread of Life Pantry Expansion
  - a. The expansion project is well under way. The concrete is pored and the roof is up. They are still looking for a plumber and an electrician. All the carpenter work has been donated. If volunteers would like to help, please contact Kathy. Carl's health is improving and Kathy thanks everyone for the kind thoughts. 60-80 families are served by the pantry each week. 30 new families were added last month.
4. Discussion on the \$5,000 grant from the DHD #10. Funds must be spent by September 30, 2016.
  - a. The Bread of Life Pantry prepared a list of items they need to support food safety in the pantry expansion. Freddie introduced Joe as a lead person on a new community gardening project in Idlewild. They are in need of garden supply items (seeds, soil, lumber for raised beds, garden tools, etc.) and would appreciate any support. Leo, Sue and Paul have been talking about hosting community canning classes where participants would actually walk away with canned goods for their home use that they would can themselves in the class. Canning supplies are needed.
  - b. After some discussion the group decide they would like to submit this proposed budget to the DHD #10:
    - i. \$4,000 to the Bread of Life Pantry for a heating and cooling unit for the expansion. This is part of a food safety initiative to protect the food from extreme temperatures, which can cause bacteria growth and rot.
    - ii. \$590 for the purchase of an outdoor gas burner, stainless steel pots and baskets and canning supplies for community canning classes throughout Lake County. A subcommittee of Food Council members will work to schedule the classes with Connie Thunick and the instructor (perhaps with help/support from Jane Hart with MSUE) and tomato donations.
    - iii. \$410 to support the community gardening project in Idlewild coordinated by Joe Dukes ([dukeslawn77@gmail.com](mailto:dukeslawn77@gmail.com)) Freddie Rosado will also be assisting with this project. Joe will itemize this request. Items may include lumber for raised beds, seeds, garden tools, soil, etc.
    - iv. Grand Total = \$5,000

5. Lake County Farmers Market Feasibility Study Presentation – Kendra Wills and Sean Walbridge, MSU Extension Summer Intern
  - a. Kendra introduced Sean and stated that this is a draft presentation to get the group's input on the final recommendations. A more detailed written report will be published by the end of the year and will be presented to the Lake County Board of Commissioners.
  - b. Kendra told a group that she would post a PDF file of the presentation from Sean on the Food Council's web site at [www.lakecofoodcouncil.weebly.com](http://www.lakecofoodcouncil.weebly.com)
  - c. Freddie noted that the first priority should be to have vendors from Lake County and not to bring in vendors from other counties. Kendra and Sean agreed, but noted that today Lake County doesn't have many farmers market vendors and probably we would have to pull vendors from other communities in while at the same time be offering support to help Lake County farmers (existing or new farmers) grow their businesses so they can become vendors.
  - d. Freddie also said he appreciated the definition of a farmers market that requires the products to be grown by the vendors themselves. He does not like it when other vendors buy most of what they sell. Kendra noted that many farmers market have a verification program that determines what is home grown and what is not.
  - e. A special section of the written report will be devoted to grants and resources to help farmers. Gordie Moeller noted that he thinks the USDA NRCS still offers funds for farmers to purchase high tunnels or hoop houses.
  - f. The group suggested more demographics on Lake County be added to the written report and presentation. The group believes some of this information has already been compiled by MSU Extension.
6. Presentation of the Muskegon Food Hub, Michigan Good Food Summit, Michigan Local Food Council Network and Michigan Meat Network by Marty Gerencer
  - a. A copy of Marty's presentations (2) has been loaded on the Food Council's web site.
  - b. Marty noted that there are about 36,000 farms in Muskegon and surrounding counties and this is one of the most agriculturally rich areas of the Midwest. The Muskegon Food Hub could open new markets for these farmers, including farmers from Lake County.
  - c. The group was encouraged to visit [www.michiganfood.org](http://www.michiganfood.org) and sign up to receive emails and attend the October Good Food Summit.
  - d. Kendra noted that she volunteered the group to host a meeting of the Michigan Local Food Council Network in the spring of 2017. More information to come on this.
7. Food Council promotional materials update – Kendra Wills
  - a. Working on securing a vendor to print the aprons. Chris Johnson agreed to help with this. Tom Ellis has a possible contact. We are looking to print 20 aprons with the Food Council logo on them.
  - b. Leo suggested folded business cards to allow for ore space to explain the meeting times and purpose of the group. Kendra agreed to have these for the September meeting.
8. Ongoing project updates:
  - a. CDC grant
    - i. The group gave a windshield tour today of Lake County and the CDC grant project work to Mr. Harris form the National WIC Association in Washington D.C. Meryl and Anne will be on the panel at the October 28 Michigan Good Food Summit with Freddie and Kendra Gibson talking about how the Michigan Good Food Charter applies in rural Michigan and highlighting our work in Lake County.
  - b. The Real Hunger Games – Leo

i. No report

Adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Next meeting: **September 12, 2016 at 3:30 p.m.**

**Remember to submit article ideas for the web site and e-news letter to Kendra Wills at [willsk@anr.msu.edu](mailto:willsk@anr.msu.edu)**

[www.lakecofoodcouncil.weebly.com](http://www.lakecofoodcouncil.weebly.com)