**Lake County Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes**

September 21, 2015

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Minutes by: Kendra Wills, MSU Extension

Participants:

Kathy Merchant, Bread of Life Pantry Director

Kendra Gibson, MSU Extension Nutrition Program Coordinator for Mason and Lake Counties

Cookie Arquette, Bread of Life Pantry Treasurer

Lynne Mills, Bread of Life Pantry

Jane Hart, MSU Extension Food Safety and Food Preservation Educator

Dawn Locke, Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services

Tannya Scales, Baldwin resident

Fr. Ron Schneider, St. Ann’s Church

Sue Brown-Havens, Bred of Life Pantry

Carl Merchant, Building Inspector

Lucinda Shepard, Baldwin resident

Freddie Rosado, Circle R Farm

Leo Heska, St. Ann’s Parishioner

Kendra Wills, MSU Extension Community Food Systems Educator

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
   1. Kendra Gibson handed out a flyer on a cooking class/nutrition ed program from MSU Extension.
   2. Report on Intersession for April 2016 at Baldwin High School. The two-hour, ten-day class will include:
      1. MSUE Food Safety from Jane Hart
      2. MSUE Community Food Systems / Food Entrepreneurship from Kendra Wills
      3. Cooking Matters from Kendra Gibson
2. **Quick review of minutes from the last meeting**
   1. Leo Heska – name spelling correction
   2. LCACC Meeting is October 14 at 4:00 p.m. Freddie agreed to attend.
3. **Budget for (Small) Voices for Food Grant - Nov. 1 Deadline**
   1. Funds to not have to be expended by Dec. 31. We can use these funds in 2016 if needed.
   2. Proposal Budget:
      1. Repair High Tunnel at Baldwin Schools. Partner with Middle School Teacher.
         1. Replacement plastic - $1,500
         2. Growing supplies (tables, pots, soil, seeds, hand tools, aeroponic growing tower, propane) - $2,500
            1. Propane company may sell at a reduced cost if a tax deduction form can be given to them.
         3. Stipend to hire instructor (Freddie Rosado) for October 19-30, 2015 10 day, two-hour “Intersession” course at Baldwin Schools - $300
      2. Laminated My Plate Poster for Pantry, laminated color coding signs for pantry shelves and shopping guides. This supports choice pantry transition, healthy eating, and does not require a high literacy level - $500
      3. Field Trips to Pantries (Love Inc. in Newaygo, True North in Fremont, Bread of Life Pantry in Hart)
         1. Mileage – 2 cars at $100 per car = $200
         2. Need three possible dates. Monday?
      4. Hand trucks or dolly for pantry to transport food from trucks - $100
      5. Temporary shelving for fresh produce donations to be stored in pantry garage when not needed. Shelves would have sides so produce will not roll off. High quality display of produce to make more appealing. $500

CURRENT TOTAL = $5,600

1. **Photovoice Presentation Update – Kendra Gibson**
   1. Kendra Gibson explained what the Photovoice project is.
   2. October Dinner with the Superintendent is not being scheduled.
   3. New date for the youth presentation of their work will be announced as soon as we know.
2. **Small Steps to Health Class This Thursday Update – Kendra Gibson**
   1. Kendra G. will work with Brenden from Lake County Star to do some media coverage of the workshop series and the Lake County Food Policy Council.
   2. Six people are signed up. Please have people contact Kendra Gibson to register. This is a great opportunity for pantry volunteers and community members to get on the same page.
   3. The pantry has a new Facebook page. Several people are using the page. Kendra G. will email Lynne information about the classes to post.
3. **Review By-Laws and other documents**
   1. Formation of small work group to create a vision statement and possibly by-laws
   2. Discussion on whether or not this Lake County Food Policy Council should become an independent non-profit with 501c3 status that can hold its own grant funds. Freddie is strongly in favor of this.
   3. Leo really liked the Michigan Good Food Charter. Lake County document should reference this document. Feels it is beautiful. He felt the Eaton County Good Food Plan is a bit long a difficult to read. Feels the Lake County document should be one-side of one page should not complicated. Leo has a draft that he worked on. Father Ron made copies and distributed them.
   4. The purpose of the one-page document is to have a handout that explains what this group is about to a variety of audiences (public meetings and for grants).
   5. Several people commented that education should be central to this group’s mission/vision. Especially on how to create healthy meals – growing, cooking, preserving, knife skills, shopping, etc.
   6. Email/phone call workgroup to work on this: Leo, Sue, Freddie, Kendra Gibson, Lucinda Shepard. Ask Becky Henne for input.
4. **Other Items:**
   1. To Do: Web site on Lake County web site for Lake County Food Policy Council?
      1. High School or college students to assist.
   2. Does this group need a Facebook page? We decided to use the new Bread of Life Pantry Facebook Page for now.
   3. Bulletin Board News is a popular newspaper. (Weekly)
   4. Take about launching the Council to the public with an open house or a harvest festival or some kind of event.
   5. Idea: Development of a Teen Food Council at High School.
   6. Idea: Food samples in the pantry and cooking classes on pantry days.
   7. Father Ron said he feels the pantry needs to have staff 7 days per week in the future.
   8. Teach food preservation courses. Jane Hart, food safety educator with MSU Extension, is willing.
5. Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

N**EXT Meeting Date –October 19, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. at St. Ann’s Church. Open to all.**