

Lake County Community Food Council Meeting Minutes - March 13, 2017

Participants: Nancy Przedwojewski, Leo Heska, Sally Mellema, Paul Betts, Kendra Gibson, Sue Brown-Havens, Joe Dukes, Anne Bianki, Meryl Smith, Tannya Scales, Wayne Eversole, Lynne Mills, Ruth Lorenger Jr., Tom Ellis, George Will (MSU Intern), Fr. Ron Schneider

15:45 Nancy Przedwojewski called the meeting to order

Nancy reported on the board meeting: 1) In the process of becoming 501c3, 2) Have EIN, 3) Going over bylaws, 4) Will be another board meeting before next general meeting, 5) Wayne will be working on the paperwork, 6) \$20 MI filing fee

Sally Mellema: 1) \$800 for the 501c3 will be coming from Sally Mellema. Will be written out to the food council in about two weeks. Checks will be mailed to Nancy at her church. 231 355 7529 Sally's direct line for us to know/share (OK to put this in minutes). The check that is coming to us (LCCFC) will be for \$5,000 minus \$410 which goes to Idlewild. All the money for the labels, the canning supplies, etc. is part of that \$5000.

Leo: We (Leo, Ellen Kerans, Darci Maldonado) have been discussing putting together a cookbook for fundraising. Anyone interested let us know. During our board meeting we discussed creating and distributing placemats. Does somebody already do this, locally? Like, a for-profit business? Hunter Safety report - two classes conducted in February!

Storage - it's still ready. Sue Brown-Haven wondered if we can start stashing the big bags of plastic milk jugs in there. The answer is "yes" - we just have to do it during business hours. Leo will talk with the folks who work in that building to figure out logistics (getting into the basement).

In June, we will be hosting the meeting of the MI local food policy network. MI wide meeting. We'd be hosts, we'd make one short presentation. Anyone who has suggestions for lunch provider, email to Kendra Wills. \$12-\$15/head, 20 to 25 people. We members can provide side dishes, on a voluntary basis. Caterer Suggestions: NahTaKa, No Place Special, Marquette Trails, Northern Exposure

Paul Betts: Publicity, media event coordinator? Group: no, this is not a public event. Paul thinks it's newsworthy. Kendra Gibson will make a note. Nancy Przedwojeski: We could at least put in an announcement - headline: LCCFC is hosting the event.

Voices for food grant application has been sent in. \$820 in filing fee costs removed from the request 'cause that'll come from Sally's money/health department.

Health Department has identified community development funds to support Sally coming to LCCFC meetings. Clinical health screenings etc. at the food pantry

Sally: little project teams are how to get things done

Paul: He is and has been meeting with GVSU to connect Spectrum re rural poverty class. People with health issues would be directed to that; others wouldn't

The topic arose of the sustainability of eat fit NW Michigan. They: Identify restaurants, work with them on healthy recipes, label those items on the menu

Multicultural workshop Tue June 27 10:00 to 15:00. Instructor: Dionardo Pizana from MSU Extension and Kendra Gibson will coordinate.

This one is open to anyone, limit 30. RSVP will be required. No charge Sue Brown-Haven says pastors are trying to come together, in a ministerial council. Inviting some members from your church would be a good idea. Nancy: we could all use something like this; decision-making, problem-solving

Canning workshops: Luther library, Wesleyan church, Irons, Bread of Life July 28 at Hollister

Sue Brown-Haven: we need procedures and accountability for lending kits. Otherwise some people will take/check out the canning kits and not return them. Maybe sell them. Discussion: perhaps librarians are good at this?

Canning workshops are conducted by Jane Hart of MSU Extension. Church or sponsor will be there. Maybe they get the kits at the workshop? Leo's suggestion: perhaps we can make a rule, you have to attend a workshop to check out a canning kit. The idea is, nobody who's just scamming would dedicate that much time. This idea met with general approval but we did not decide anything for sure. We need to discuss more with the various partners (e.g. librarians) how this should work.

Food pantry personnel mentioned that they don't have what's needed to institute and carry out the procedures, ensure the accountability, that Sue Brown-Havens mentioned. Nancy Przedwojewski: there has to be a way for them to earn a kit. Suggestion: Maybe we can make an offer, if you can 100 quarts of food, you get to keep the canning kit. General approval but no final decision made. Someone mentioned Denise Pegora (sp?) and Northern Lights

Joe: how to involve young people; he doesn't want the canning to be done just by older people. Suggestions: Have DHS refer clients, FiveCap? Let's get the interested parties together to figure out the logistics of distributing/lending the canning kits

Kendra Wills is working on the press release for the canning jars. Kendra Gibson and Sally are working together on getting Jane's dates finalized

Build a box - Nancy has been trying to contact New sheriff, Rich Martin

Leo passed around the book So Easy To Preserve by the University of Georgia Coop Extension Service. The canning recipes are loaded with sugar. Leo recommended not using that book; it's bad for our community. General agreement, but what do we use instead? Ann, reading the book, also noticed the reading level. She said, whatever we use or produce, let's pay attention to reading level. Some ideas were discussed including starting out small with just a photocopied few pages of recipes.

Joe: Idlewild community gardens update. Sally: one check is going straight to them. \$410 another \$1500 is coming from the \$5000-\$410 check.. Joe needs cement blocks from Paul. Paul: Jerome Miller has 500 yards of "absolutely suitable" compost. Bark and sawdust that has been composted for 5 years. Paul: 150 cement blocks somewhere near Shell, some old lady. Another building somewhere that can be dismantled and the cement blocks reused.

Joe will call Paul about concrete blocks. Joe's concern, liability when making the garden-in-a-box. Day of event rider for insurance

Rogation Day is April 25 every year, no matter the day of the week. This year that's a Tuesday.

The meeting/group decided to handle the issue of liability by not having a group event for sawing the boards into pieces. We'll split that up between workers (Joe, Leo, Paul, others who are willing) and each one will do his/her own sawing. Sue Brown-Haven said that once the component pieces are ready, the Garden Club will be able and willing to use the air nailers and assemble the boxes.

Kendra Gibson: Photo Voice program was successful. She wants people that are interested. Set up a date Give them instructions. Lynne will see if people who come to the pantry this Wednesday will come. People who participated and/or are interested, take photos of how they feel about food and health in Lake County.

Next meeting April 10 ,2017

Nancy adjourned the meeting at 17:00 sharp.

Minutes submitted by Leo Heska