

# CHAMPAIGN COUNTY LOCAL FOODS POLICY COUNCIL

## MINUTES

MARCH 12, 2014, 5:45 P.M.  
BROOKENS ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
JENNIFER PUTMAN ROOM

PRESENT: Tod Satterthwaite; Zach Kennedy; Becky Roach; Cathe Capel; Mel Farrell; Chris Henning; Brad Uken

GUESTS: Patti Petrie

1. Call to Order—at 5:48pm
2. Additions/Corrections to the Agenda—none
3. Approval of Minutes—minutes of 2/26 meeting were approved
4. Public Participation
5. Old Business
  - a. Guest Commentary progress—It is at the News Gazette now. Two signatures [Cathe and Becky]. Rest of us can be listed beneath. Not sure when it will be in the paper, as editor was vague in telephone conversation with Becky.
  - b. Rantoul Food Hub report—Rantoul administrator, Bruce Sandahl, very active in project, no longer works for the City of Rantoul. Brad doesn't see a problem. The mayor has been briefed and others want to be involved. Things might see a temporary delay, but support is still active, particularly for the Farmer's Market component. Next step is to get the mayor engaged and up to speed.
  - c. Dining Services/local food report—Student Farm working on vermicomposting with Dining Services. Chris talked about the digester that dining services uses to turn waste into gray water that could be used for the vermicomposting. Good for the pipes! Should be up and running after Spring Break. Woody perennial/Permaculture [Savannah Project] is being investigated to see if any opportunities with UofI can happen. Trying to work with U of I Meat Sciences [Chuck] on how to increase sales to Dining Services. Chris just back from "Menu Directions" conference. Focus on food trends; indigenous BBQ presentation was

very interesting to see the regional differences. They're working on doing an "Illinois" version at Dining Services. Investigate some local ag sources for ingredients [Marty Travis at Spence Farms for cornmeal—heirloom local variety he grows].

d. Discussion of Future Activities

- i. Brad contacted representative at Aramark [Mahomet School District]. Looking at end of March to get together to talk. Maybe getting a school district official to join the conversation.
- ii. Farmer Survey. Looked at Land Connection survey. Perhaps we need to re-establish the concept. Perhaps we just want to see what farmer's are doing now. We might want to know what they want/need. Who to send it to? Lists are available [Farmer's Market; Specialty growers; Farm Beginnings; ISA; Brad working on his list for Brad]. Perhaps asking marketing strategies. Add a question about who else to contact....Work on the premise/what info to get. Work with Rantoul efforts. Start with paper and also do it in Survey Monkey. Mel will work on survey with Cathe; Brad will get the mailing list in shape. Goal: 30 days.
- iii. Ag Census. Waiting for May data. Zach and Brad will start on outline.

6. New Business

- a. Sola Gratia purchased a high tunnel kit. City of Urbana says has to meet minimum standards for a greenhouse. Lots of red tape. Last Friday, note from city says they might reconsider regulations. Should LFPC take a stand, do something? Chicago certainly has them already. Madison's experience shows that they are considering an Urban Agricultural zoning policy. Are hoop houses permanent or temporary. Could Sola Gratia be a test project. Tod will follow up.
- b. LFPC roundly approved for continuance by County Board. If we want to add anything to our mission, resolution or future actions we should. High praise from Al Kurtz. Think about 501 3C [non-profit] status. Patti will convey to CB that we are comfortable with current status

7. Legislative Update—FSMA final date for resolution by 2016. Info from Sysco [Chris] about produce safety: Sysco is trying to work more with local growers, by subsidizing part of the GAP certification costs. Farmer's Market bill in state: to make all regulations equal in all communities.

8. Announcements—Champaign Conv./Bus. Bureau group toured several Chicago area food projects [Growing Home, e.g.] to see how we could utilize here. Brad working on a project with kids in Champaign Park District on local foods. County Board gave \$100,000 to "Community Elements' re-entry program. Should we have an exploratory

conversation with them about farming training, etc.; partnering with Rantoul project.

9. Adjourn—7:40pm