

<p><b>Purpose:</b> Johnson County Food Policy Council Meeting</p> <p><b>Date:</b> Monday, January 24, 2022</p>	<p><b>Time:</b> 6:00 pm-8:00 pm</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Johnson County Administration Building - Betty Sass Conference Room 913 S. Dubuque St. Iowa City, IA 52240 and Zoom Option</p>	<p><b>Note taker:</b> Molly Schintler</p> <p><b>Members In Attendance:</b> Ayman Sharif, Bill Weedman Jr, Debbie Klein, Deborah Kuiken, Giselle Bruskewitz, Hannah Shultz, Kristy Walker, Mike Roelf, Molly Schintler</p> <p><b>Ex Officio:</b> Ilsa DeWald, Jon Green, Cassidy Beamer</p> <p><b>Guests:</b> Olivia Bohlmann, Michal</p> <p><b>Absent:</b> Joe Klingelhutz</p>
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Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items – Due Date
1. Meeting Called to Order by Giselle @ 6:01		
2. Minutes Approval	Kristy motioned to approve and Debbie gave a second and the motion passed	
3. Introductions		
4. Facilitated Focus Group Discussion for Iowa Food System Coalition	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What Strengths do you see in our food system? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Ayman: economic resilience</li> <li>b. Kristy: rich, black soil &amp; water; resources to support beginning farmers with land access</li> <li>c. Bill: food pantries, many selections for grocery stores</li> <li>d. Giselle: impressive community of people who are supportive of food systems (community groups, activists, farmers &amp; producers, gardeners, non-profits etc.); shared Iowa identity that is proud of feeding people; Iowa demographics are shifting and there is a big opportunity to glean knowledge from new Iowans</li> <li>e. Molly: Iowa-based farmer support groups (PFI, WFAN, NYFC Chapters); indigenous knowledge; alternative models (NewPi Coop, Humble Hand Harvest etc.)</li> <li>f. Hannah: Lot of variety of food produced in Iowa</li> <li>g. Debbie K: strong food hub development as a way to bridge gap between producer and consumer; strong ag community; strong interest in buying local</li> <li>h. Olivia: Good educational resources at different levels (ie: FoodCorps)</li> <li>i. Mike: Lots of enthusiasm and public interest</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	

- j. Michal: lots of opportunity for local foods in Johnson County
  - k. Deborah: schools in Johnson County have strong 4H and FFA programs, schools care about getting all students food access
  - l. Cassidy: local farmers are very resourceful and scrappy and creative
2. What do you see as the constraints of our food system?
- a. Hannah: land is expensive
  - b. Debbie K: linking farmers to consumers; knowing where to take advantage of purchasing local foods
  - c. Olivia: food deserts; expanding options to rural communities
  - d. Mike: access to processing (both meat and not meat), financing
  - e. Michal: economic incentives and policy that work actively against the environment
  - f. Deborah: local, small farms struggling to survive; it's hard for a single person to break into farming
  - g. Cassidy: lack of medium scale production of specialty crops; lack of light-processing of veggies to increase sales to institution; climate change and soil degradation
  - h. Ayman: rigid system that is unable to shift and adapt specifically in terms of a diversifying population; lack of political will to support local producers and production; adding a tool that can really support entrepreneurs/new farmers (especially with thoughts toward immigrant/ refugee/ first-gen communities)
  - i. Kristy: land access barriers, lack of access to small and medium sized land parcels; sees a need for policies to support and make a way to access to smaller farmers; need incentives to grow healthy foods that are good for land and water; difficult to break into raising livestock in terms of meat processing policies (referring to both state and county adopted food code)
  - j. Bill: need more food storage; food deserts; more non-profit kitchens and places for people to get food
  - k. Giselle: supply chain fragility (global affects local); staffing and workers right// livable wage issues within the food chain; EBT/SNAP/WIC access challenges, climate change
  - l. Molly: organically-based, diversified farming is not economically viable for all (land access, access to health care, access to childcare, ability to pay yourself or employees a liveable wage)
  - m. Ilsa: lack of option for state inspected facilities for slaughter and processing, issues with supply chain, not a single processor for local foods
3. If you had a magic wand...
- a. Deborah: make it easier to connect two points together (ie: institution can share best practices)
  - b. Cassidy: more regulation of big ag to keep soil and water healthy
  - c. Ayman: we need clear metrics to measure equity; a system where we can identify mechanisms/tools for achieving equity
  - d. Kristy: direct subsidies for specialty produce growers
  - e. Bill: more non-profit farms; have kids learning how to grow and cook food
  - f. Giselle: every institution in Iowa purchasing local, community-based foods whenever possible

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>g. Molly: healthcare for all; solidarity with all workers, not just those within local foods</li> <li>h. Hannah: ALL OF THE ABOVE</li> <li>i. Debbie K: more resources (processing etc.) for local foods; dreams of a one-stop-shop for processing, educating etc.</li> <li>j. Olivia: guaranteed and sustained funding for farmers, educators, and non-profit</li> <li>k. Mike: turn Iowa into the largest vegetable producing state in the country</li> <li>l. Michal: culture change away from convenience and cheap</li> </ul>	
<b>5. Break</b>		
<b>6. Updates from Jon Green, Board of Supervisors, and Ilsa DeWald, Local Foods Coordinator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Johnson County Economic Development Plan: Proposal to hire two positions</li> <li>2. Introducing Jon Green as the new Board Liaison <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <a href="mailto:jgreen@johnsoncountyiowa.gov">jgreen@johnsoncountyiowa.gov</a> , 307-828-1004</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>7. Discuss American Rescue Plan Act Recommendations</b>	<p>Updates since last meeting: Looking at this fiscal year, we need to utilize \$50k before June 30th. Ilsa recommends that we fund Veggie RX with a portion of funding for this fiscal year. The only other recommendation for this year is to grant some funds to Cassidy's hours. Since these two recommendations will not take the whole \$50k, Ilsa recommends that the extra funding role over to the next fiscal year and be added to the \$50K that is allocated to that fiscal year. Molly moved to support this, Kristy gave a second, and the motion passed</p>	
<b>8. Discuss Food Policy Council Annual Report and Working Group Updates</b>	<p>Ilsa needs any suggested edits before the February meeting. The final report will be sent to community partners (individuals and orgs) with a media kit supporting them to share out with their networks.</p>	
<b>9. Discuss 2022 Food Policy Council Calendar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food Policy Council supported Iowa Food System Coalition Focus Groups</li> <li>• Local Foods Roundtable: Transforming the Food System through Storytelling – Postponed</li> <li>• Annual Public Forum 2022 – Date and Theme TBD</li> <li>• Update to the Board of Supervisors</li> </ul>	
<b>10. Action Items &amp; Agenda for Next Meeting</b>	<p>Ilsa needs any suggested edits for the Annual Report before the February meeting.</p> <p>Thursday, April 21st event at Kirkwood: Council members will be tabling with Ilsa</p> <p>Follow Johnson County on your social media platforms and share out all the FPC info/posts</p>	

<b>Meeting adjourned by</b>	
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