

<p>Purpose: Johnson County Food Policy Council Meeting</p> <p>Date: 9/27/21</p>	<p>Time: 6:00 pm-8:00 pm</p> <p>Location: Johnson County Administration Building - Betty Sass Conference Room 913 S. Dubuque St. Iowa City, IA 52240 and Zoom Option</p>	<p>Note taker: Will Kapp</p> <p>Members In Attendance: Ayman Sharif, Bill Weedman Jr, Debbie Klein, Giselle Bruskewitz, Hannah Shultz, Jill Irvin, Mike Roelf, Molly Schintler, Will Kapp, Deborah Kuiken, Joe Klingelhutz</p> <p>Ex Officio: Ilsa DeWald, Rod Sullivan, Cassidy Beamer</p> <p>Guests: Allison Wells (Grants Assistant - Johnson County), Susan Erem (SILT), Diane Platte (Free Lunch), Mark Ogden (Johnson County Farm Bureau), Kai Kiser (Free Lunch)</p> <p>Absent: Liz Maas, Kristy Walker, Keshia Fields, Debbie Klein</p>
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Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items – Due Date
Meeting Called to Order by Giselle @ 6:00 pm		
Minutes Approval	Mike - Motion Jill - Second Approved unanimously	
1. Introductions	Many guests in attendance tonight per the ARPA discussion	
2. Power of Food Conference	<p>Multiple members were able to attend due to conference being moved to virtual.</p> <p>Cassidy - Many other systems (housing, transportation, etc) connect with food systems and fall under the purview of food policy councils. Storytelling workshop was especially worthwhile. A big focus on relationships. Takeaway - there are many people working in this sector that are willing to share. Rep. from NW Indiana FPC communicated information regarding how to communicate with communities that are served - meeting them where they are at, creating a strong and clear elevator pitch, etc.</p> <p>Giselle - Many sessions had a land acknowledgment, Philadelphia group had a statement of place written collaboratively that was powerful.</p>	

<p>3. Updates from Rod Sullivan and Ilsa DeWald</p>	<p>Rod - No updates</p> <p>Ilsa -</p> <p>Two members have stepped down (Liz Maas and Alex MacKay). This means there are two vacancies, but will not be posted immediately, instead looking at targeted recruitment by current members.</p> <p>Engagement and input sessions are coming up for Iowa Ag Vision Coalition (name still under work), looking to report to the state government about local food issues across the state.</p>	
<p>4. Working groups report out</p>	<p>Marketing - Met a couple weeks ago after a bit of a hiatus. Reviewed strategic plan to look toward what work they may be taking on in the future. Began talking about what an annual report may look like. FPC can use the Johnson County social media to work.</p> <p>Food Justice - Strategic plan lays out idea for a community conservation. Could revolve around data that local organizations are collecting, how is it being used, is it effective. Could also revolve around the storytelling that the strategic plan lays out.</p> <p>Infrastructure - Visited Open Gates Farm that is part of Kalona Supernatural. Tour around facilities could possibly collaborate with a company that has a lot of infrastructure in place for processing and storing. Looking to what infrastructure is in place is helpful.</p> <p>Equipment Share - Legal questions surround the movement forward of the Equipment Share program that is being developed by IVRC&D. Smaller scale gardening equipment share is exploring opportunities to collaborate w/ Friends of Historic Preservation</p>	
<p>5. Discuss ARPA Recommendations</p>	<p>Our goal is to look toward the recommendations that we have set forward, looking toward what the needs of the community are and how they line up with the goals of ARPA. What is the amount that we need to accomplish these goals? What we are looking at today is a draft for the purposes of our conversations.</p> <p>Giselle - ARPA is Covid relief. We know how much that impacted food systems - local producers, supply chain issues, work stoppages, frontline workers, food insecurity, etc.</p> <p>Allison - There are current funding sources that are being decided upon by the BoS. Interest in \$200,000 for local food support - support to minority owned businesses and nonprofits, preference for alignment with ARPA. ARPA does supply aid to nonprofits in the form of loans, grants, technical assistance - preferences to businesses that have faced challenges with Covid-19 (lack of access to credit, serving disadvantaged communities, financial hardship). ARPA is also focused on assisting disadvantaged populations - one of which is lack of access to healthy foods.</p>	

	<p>Molly - What are requirements for nonprofits? Same as with small business (disproportionate impact by pandemic, serving disadvantaged communities)</p> <p>Susan Erem - Couple of ideas. Buffer zones (CRP) transferred to perennial crops. Circle our Cities - provide acreages that are focused on serving communities. Land access is not necessarily affordable, but SILT would like to partner to reduce obstacles and barriers. ARPA funds could subsidize the gap between what landowners want for their land and what new farmers can afford. Affordable land = affordable food = positive impact on hunger.</p> <p>V Fixmer-Oraiz - Co-founder of RE Connect (Racial Equity Connect), a group of minority-run businesses and nonprofits. Short-term and long-term goals. Hoping funding can go into "hub" organizations and be distributed out to "spoke" organizations.</p> <p>Diane Platte - Co-director of Free Lunch Program w/ Kai Kiser. Free meals for anyone who comes to the door, located at 1105 Project. Works with different volunteer groups in the area to facilitate daily meals.</p> <p>Ayman Sharif - Addition to RE Connect. If we can direct funds toward educational opportunities to communicate about the local government organizations and services that are here for newly arrived citizens. Education about services and resources that are available to connect to the community, a hub that can do this would be ideal.</p>	
<p>6. Discuss ARPA Recommendations, cont.</p>	<p>Allison - County very interested in funding watershed preservation and technical assistance. Improve the ways we do business by increasing our communication about what we are doing to all communities. Small business education and outreach has come up multiple times in listening sessions - could include small farmers.</p> <p>Giselle - Could technical assistance include benefits for farm workers? Building resiliency does revolve around better health, so it is pertinent to ARPA funds.</p> <p>Rod - Technical assistance - what is missing? Who is providing it and to whom are they providing it? It's important to think about the how, where, when, why in connection with all of these ideas.</p> <p>Giselle - How does the infrastructure vs. staff time play out? Board is waiting to set priorities for how that money will play out. As much prep and research as possible so projects come up is a benefit.</p> <p>Rod - Personnel is a much harder ask because it is presumably an ongoing expense, whereas ARPA money is only for 4 years, better served for one-time expenditures. What happens when those funds run out? A lot easier ask is equipment, land, resources, etc.</p> <p>Giselle - Should grant applicants factor in administrative costs? County has put in 5% for administrative load. Fundees will need to do a certain amount of reporting.</p>	

	<p>Ayman - Newly arrived members of the community will have an inherent investment in local food movements. Short-term projects can be based on informing and educating folks about what opportunities are available. Information must be accessible to communities outside of those already in the know of terms (technical assistance, entrepreneurship, etc).</p> <p>Community navigators - employees from different communities act as navigators for services in order to communicate information to their communities.</p> <p>Rod - There is a lot of money coming from the USDA that can also be used for projects.</p> <p>Molly - County funding could also support areas where there are gaps in USDA funding.</p> <p>Allison - Food assistance is definitely eligible. School districts themselves received ARPA funding and may be able to fund some large-scale food preparation infrastructure inputs. Childcare is very eligible for ARPA and would fit in several categories. County funding could focus on farm-to-early care or University, but not public schools because they get their own ARPA funding.</p> <p>Ilsa - Veggie RX provides CSA style veggie and meat boxes to disadvantaged families through local nonprofits. This has been funded grant-to-grant, but could receive more money to stabilize through ARPA.</p> <p>Ayman - Currently conducted a study for the City of Iowa City to study climate resilience hubs, identifying places and organization that different communities trust and focusing on helping to augment and lift the skills of marginalized areas to connect these communities with local government decision and policy makers. This work focuses on the social aspects, rather than the physical, of climate resiliency.</p> <p>Ilsa - Land access may be available, but what would be eligible in terms of placing infrastructure on these tracts which more than likely have none as they've been row cropped? This could come in terms of grants for small businesses. Could be framed as tourism, as that was an impacted industry.</p> <p>Allison - More ARPA public input meetings coming up, tomorrow in Solon and 10/12 in Lone Tree, then a summative input session at Johnson Co board room with Zoom option.</p>	
Next Meeting	Missed agenda items for this week will be addressed next week, specifically the discussion of the FPC Strategic Plan Engagement Responses.	
Meeting adjourned by motion by Will, second by Joe, unanimous approval		