



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes - Final

Food Council

Wednesday, October 16, 2024
4:00 PM

Regular

Department of Public
Health and Human
Services
Training Room 1
1005 W. Worley St.
Columbia, MO 65203

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Saunders called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Present: 7 - Anna Meyer, Katie Molitor, Adam Saunders, Shannon Stokes, Kyra Barnard,
Donald Jackson and Corrina Smith

Excused: 2 - Gabriela Weir Vera and Tish Johnson

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A. Meyer moved to approve the agenda. Molitor seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Molitor moved to approve the minutes for August 21st, 2024. Stokes seconded and the motion passed unanimously

IV. REPORTS

A. Food Assessment/MFH

1. Schley provided a comprehensive update on the community food system assessment, detailing upcoming initiatives such as tabling at the Hootenanny event, the launch of an ambassador program, and the finalization of a consumer survey. The discussion included feedback on additional surveys and the outreach strategy, with a focus on avoiding overlap between different surveys targeting consumers, retailers, and producers. The council members were encouraged to contribute their expertise to enhance the outreach efforts, particularly in relation to the ambassador cohort's influence on the strategy.

2. The conversation shifted to the survey strategy, emphasizing the inclusion of diverse populations and producers in Boone County and surrounding areas. Concerns were raised about adequately representing smaller communities, with suggestions for focus groups to gain a deeper understanding of local needs. The group aimed to identify weaknesses in the food system and potential policy changes through the assessment. Insights from a call with food hub representatives highlighted challenges in food distribution across the state, underscoring the need for targeted interventions.

3. Schley presented a comprehensive strategy for distributing a consumer survey targeting 2,000 respondents over a four-month period. The plan emphasizes reaching underrepresented groups through diverse distribution methods, including translations into multiple languages. Saunders highlighted the importance of collaborating with retailers and considered the potential involvement of food justice experts to enhance the project's insights. Additionally, the city is partnering with the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture (CCUA) to apply for a grant supporting local gardening initiatives. The Council unanimously approved the issuance of a letter of support for the grant application, with Barnard making the motion and Meyer seconding it.

B. Other reports

1. Shikles provided updates on several key items. The city is currently collaborating with the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture (CCUA) to apply for the Childhood Obesity Prevention, Environmental Health, and Sustainability Award, offered by the United States Conference of Mayors. If the application is successful, the funds will be allocated to CCUA for three primary initiatives: establishing a garden at Indian Hills, contributing to the ongoing Clary Shai project, and supporting local outreach efforts during the upcoming election.

Saunders, Molitor, and Stokes recused themselves from the discussion. Jackson moved to draft a letter of support for the Mayor's Council Award for Agreement. Meyer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Johnson will sign the letter.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Shikles clarified the process for addressing previously discussed topics, using water rates and their impact on food security as an example. It was outlined that a memo would be drafted to detail the proposed plan, which would then be submitted to the council for review. Upon approval from the council, authorization would be granted to proceed with the initiative. Following this, collaboration would occur among team members to complete the necessary work, culminating in a report that would be submitted back to the council.

It was confirmed that the memo would indeed be presented to the council for consideration. The term "you" was clarified to refer to the entire team working collectively on the initiative. This structured approach is designed to ensure that councils and commissions remain aligned in their efforts, preventing any independent actions that could lead to miscommunication. Concerns were raised about past experiences reported by other board and commission liaisons, where a lack of communication resulted in the council being caught off guard by initiatives that had been developed without their knowledge. Implementing this process aims to mitigate such issues and foster better coordination among teams.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None

VII. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

A. It was brought to attention that the Missouri Foundation for Health has funded a similar initiative involving Hannibal and Douglas Community Services, which encompasses multiple counties, including Marion and Ralls. This initiative is currently undergoing a process comparable to ours.

Exploring potential collaboration or consistency between our efforts and theirs could be beneficial. If we align on certain questions or objectives, it may enhance our overall analysis and impact.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

November 20th, 2024 @ 4 p.m. at the Food Bank Market

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.