

FARMERS' MARKET COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2019
7:00PM
Village Hall – Room 101

Present: Laura Lencioni (Chair), Myndi DeVore, Julia Knier, Jennifer Purrenhage, Dina Ross, Jill Stewart, Katie Weaver; Market Manager: Colleen McNichols; Staff Liaison: Mike Charley; Church Liaison: Jeff Petertil

Excused: Commission: Dominic Cianciolo, James Robinson-Parran, Liz Stolfa; CIC Liaison: Frank Pond; Vendor Liaison: Jim Vitalo

Guests: Rachel Hahs

- 1) Call to Order @ 7:05 pm, first by Ross, second by DeVore
- 2) Agenda Approval: Approved, first by Knier, second by Ross
- 3) Public Comment: Rachel Hahs introduced herself. Rachel is scheduled to be officially appointed by the Village Board as a Farmers' Market Commissioner on June 17.
- 4) Approval of Minutes – May 8, 2019: Approved, first by Purrenhage, second by DeVore
- 5) Church Liaison Report (Jeff Petertil): Petertil communicated that through the first four weeks the donut revenue is on par to last year's sales. Petertil communicated that the church will make a concerted effort to ensure that the church's recyclables are washed prior to dropping them in the recycling bins. McNichols asked Petertil to provide an update on the church's response to the Steketee's request that the commission and Village provide portapotties. Petertil communicated that the church has decided not to allow porta-potties to be installed on their property, for various reasons. In addition, Petertil communicated, in response to the Steketees' suggestion at the previous commission meeting, that the church has decided not to relocate the band. The church has determined that the current band location is the best location at the market. Charley communicated that staff had met with the Police and emailed the Steketees twice since the last meeting. The Steketees have not responded to the two emails.
- 6) Vendor Liaison Report (Jim Vitalo): Not present/No comment
- 7) Chair Report (Laura Lencioni): Lencioni commented that she has observed vendors stepping just outside the market boundaries to smoke. The vendors are still smoking within feet of their respective booth areas. McNichols communicated that she will reach out to vendors regarding being cognizant of where they smoke in relation to the market. Lencioni communicated that she would like to review the Farmers' Market Work Plan at the next meeting. The attendance survey was mentioned and the commission discussed conducting the attendance survey in July. McNichols recommended being strategic with the timing of the survey and possibly conducting the survey at more than one market date.

Knier communicate that she spoke to two members of the Energy and Environmental Committee at the Go Green Days and they were really pushing the campaign to reduce plastics at the Farmers' Market. See information below under "Plastic Free July".

- 8) Farmers' Market Liaison Report (Mike Charley): Charley communicated that Trustee Atri Walker-Peddakotla has been assigned the Village Trustee Liaison to the Farmers' Market.
- 9) Farmers' Market Manager Report (Colleen McNichols)
 - a) Plastic Free July: McNichols communicated that a meeting was held recently with the Village Manager Cara Pavlicek and Sustainability Coordinator Mindy Agnew regarding the plastic pot return program. Stickers will be placed on the plant pots encouraging customers to return plastic plant pots to the market. Also in July, the Village may be providing vendors compostable bags for use. Colleen is working with Mindy Agnew, the Village's Sustainability person on purchasing compostable bags. The overall goal is to reduce plastic use at the Farmers' Market. Weaver communicated that Ellis Farms gave her produce in reusable mesh bags. The commission agreed that this is a great idea.
 - b) McNichols communicated that Go Green Days was a great success and thanked Knier for coordinating the event.

10) Committee/Project Reports

- a) Pie Contest: Ross asked if we can get a blurb in the next FYI issue. Charley communicated that the FYI deadline for August/September was today. Charley did email Communications Director Dave Powers and inquired whether it was too late to get information into this FYI issue. Powers responded during the meeting that the Communications Department can and will include something within the next Oak Park FYI regarding both the Corn Roast and Pie Baking Contest. Ross felt that 15 pies (last year's total) was too many. The commission agreed that 12 pies would be a more appropriate number for the 2019 event.
- b) Sustainability: Knier communicated that she spoke to someone in the winter about the boy scouts earning badges for monitoring the different waste bins (recycling, composting and regular waste). Purrenhage communicated that there is a Service Club at the high school. Knier commented that she had attempted to contact the Service Club in the past; however they were not very responsive. Knier commented that the bins must be monitored throughout the market for the program to work; there is just a general lack of knowledge.

Plastic Free July: According to Purrenhage, the Energy and Environment Commission is requesting booth space at the market to promote Plastic Free July. The EEC was asking about participating the last Saturday in June. McNichols communicated that there is space available the last Saturday in June. DeVore communicated that it sounds like more communication is needed for the public on disposing wastes. She recommended a table be set-up with a game adults can play for them to learn about composting and recycling.

- c) Stewart asked if the Village can create a blog and that the commission manage a blog. Charley communicated that if market staff and/or market commissioners provide information to the Communications Department they will use Village social media to

promote the market. Charley recommended that Jill Stewart (FM Commission assigned communications person) meet with the Village's Communications Department to discuss options. Stewart communicated that she was open to meeting with the Communications Department. Farmers' Market Manager McNichols to schedule this meeting.

- d) Purrenhage asked if any other commissioners would be interested in volunteer recruitment. Purrenhage currently manages the Sign Up Genius and if any extra volunteers are required for specific events to let her know, so she can update the Sign Up Genius. Purrenhage suggested that 6 time slots per commissioner per year are ideal to staff volunteers at the market.

11) Old Business: None

12) New Business: McNichols communicated that the Township's van is now available to drive customers to and from the market for a \$1 fee.

13) Adjourn @ 8:30 pm, first by Ross, second by Knier

Next Meeting Wednesday, July 10, 7-9 pm, Room 101, Village Hall