

FARMERS' MARKET COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2022, 7:00 pm
Conducted Remotely

Commissioners Present: Dominic Cianciolo, Myndi DeVore, Jessica Green, Julia Knier (Chair), Tom Newman, Dina Ross, Jill Stewart, Liz Stolfa
Commissioners Excused: Kristina Becvar
Staff Liaisons Present: Cindy Hansen, Erica Helms, Sara Semelka

Call to order. Chair Knier called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Agenda approval. The Climate Ready Oak Park Plan agenda item will be postponed to the November meeting. Commissioner DeVore moved to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Commissioner Green. All commissioners present voted in favor.

Minutes approval. Commissioner Ross moved to approve the September 14, 2022 meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Commissioner Newman. All commissioners present voted in favor.

Public comment. No public comments were submitted for this meeting.

Chairperson's Report. Chair Knier said an update on commission candidates will be provided at the November meeting during executive session.

Village/Liaison Reports:

Market Manager. Ms. Helms reported that the Market survey was launched last week. New methods this year include a QR code and signage at the info tent and vendor booths, the Village E-News, Facebook, Instagram posts, a volunteer video, and an incentive to win a goodie basket. The survey is open until October 21. There were 60 responses in 2019 and we have 225 responses so far. Ms. Semelka went through each of the survey questions and noted the changes from the 2019 survey.

Finn's Ranch sells fish from a family farm in Michigan. Ms. Helms checked the ordinance and fish is the exception to the five-state region. She interviewed the farm and researched their sustainability practices and they comply. Commissioner Ross confirmed nothing in the ordinance prevents fish.

Ms. Helms noted contamination in the compost bins despite the signage. A sustainability station might be a place where people can share clamshells. Commissioner Ross recalled that was suggested previously but was deemed not possible due to health considerations.

Ms. Helms would like to do a separate Link survey and will draft questions. The Link program has grown and new Link users and longtime Link users can provide valuable feedback.

Ms. Helms will send a Google Form to Commissioner DeVore who will then send the e-invitation to volunteers for the volunteer appreciation event on October 23 at Lindberg Park.

Ms. Helms visited J2K and Green Fire farms which were first-time site visits for both vendors. She will apply for a temporary food permit and order supplies for the Stone Soup event.

Ms. Semelka reported that a chief communications officer started and a new website will roll out in Fall 2023. Ms. Semelka will make an email introduction for Commissioner Stewart and the CCO.

Pilgrim Church Liaison. In Ms. Sutphen's absence, Ms. Hansen reported that Pilgrim will offer apple cinnamon and chocolate frosted donuts at the final Market.

Vendor Representative. Commissioner Newman reported that vendors are pleased with the traffic since the Corn Roast. Vendors are winding down for the season.

Committee/Project Reports:

Volunteer. Commissioner DeVore reported that Stone Soup is posted on the SignUpGenius. Two volunteers are needed from 7-8 am and more from 8-11 am to serve soup.

Commissioner DeVore shared details about the Volunteer Appreciation event to be held Sunday, October 23. Those volunteers who helped with the Market this season were invited as are all commissioners. Commissioner DeVore and Ms. Helms can provide mason jars for the flowers that will be created from flowers that vendors donate to the thank you bouquets.

Communications. Commissioner Stewart met Village photographer Joe Kreml and suggested using his visuals more effectively. Ms. Hansen shared the Flickr album of the Pie Bake-Off. Chair Knier remembers he took photos at the Corn Roast.

Children's Events. Commissioner Ross said there are no more events this season. Ms. Helms received positive feedback and hopes to do more next year earlier in the season. Commissioner Ross received feedback from organizations that they were short staffed. The Village is considering doing health education events, stretching workshops, and senior events.

Smaller bites of pie may need to be given to customers. Commissioner Cianciolo suggested having bakers submit extra pies to sell or auction off as an additional fundraiser for the Market.

Events. Commissioner Cianciolo is in contact with Brad at Carnivore about Stone Soup and will clarify his arrival time. A propane source and lighter are needed. Ms. Helms will check the tank in the shed. Chair Knier suggested the event not start before 8 am. Cups are placed on sheet pans and shared with the vendors first to thank them for their participation at the 2022 Market. Ms. Helms will order smaller ladles and cups. Chair Knier thanked Commissioner Cianciolo for his seven years of service on the commission and invited him to the volunteer appreciation event.

New Business:

Draft 2023 Work Plan. Ms. Semelka led the commission through making updates to the 2022 work plan to create a draft 2023 work plan. Chair Knier would like to schedule a working meeting with Ms. Semelka and Ms. Helms and then present the work plan for a vote at the November meeting.

Old Business:

Prepared Foods. Chair Knier requested Commissioners Newman and Ross meet to clarify deliverables and challenges such as the timeline for the Prepared Food program, soft launch date, and steps needed for accomplishing launch date. Commissioners Newman and Ross will schedule a call next week with Ms. Helms and Ms. Semelka to create steps and understand health department needs.

Adjourn. Commissioner Stewart moved to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner DeVore. All commissioners present voted in favor. Chair Knier adjourned the meeting at 8:58 pm.