

FARMERS MARKET COMMISSION

August 13, 2014

7:00 PM

Village Hall – Room 102

Present: Chairperson: Molly McDonough Carson; Commissioners: Warren Bakker, Joanne Balice, Jasmine Cleofe, Jennifer Purrenhage, Erin Schoop, Rebekah Braslow. Market Manager: Jessica Rinks; Bridget Optholt from Oak Park Library; Jeff Petertil from Pilgrim Church.

Excused: Commissioners: Aly Schoenfeldt, Courtney Greve Hack, Catherine Murphy, Stephanie Kirchner. Farmers' Liaison: Jim Vitalo; Church Liaison Jeff Petertil; Staff Commission Liaison Mike Charley

1. Call to Order- 7:05 PM
2. Agenda Approval- Approved. Rebekah motioned. Seconded by Joanne.
3. Public Comment- None
4. Approval of Minutes of July 9, 2014- Motion to approve by Rebekah. Second from Jasimie. Minutes approved without edits.
5. Old Business-
 - Customer Survey: Molly will follow up with Catherine regarding the status of the customer survey. (Catherine is not present). Plan is to do in-person surveys at the market and do online survey through the Village website.
 - Food Trucks: Discussion about having food trucks be part of the farmers market either regularly or on special event days. Not sure how vendors would feel about adding food trucks. Not sure how it would work logistically (where would they park? Etc).
 - 40 anniversary: Discussion of what we need to do now to prepare for the 40th. It would be good to know how long vendors have been with the market, perhaps include this as a question in the end of season vendor survey. Molly suggests having a committee to discuss and narrow down the ideas for the 40th. Jennifer, Jasmine, Joanne volunteer to be on this committee. They will meet as a committee sometime between now and the next Commission meeting and we'll discuss their findings at the next meeting.
6. New Business- None.
7. Farmers' Market Chairperson Report

- Molly mentions that Jessica prepares weekly market managers reports that describe in detail what happens at each market. Molly finds these reports helpful.
- The library has prepared a list of the vendors and when their farms are open, contact info, etc. A handout containing this info was circulated. The library also did a list of possible kids' activities including examples of what other farmers markets do. A list of these ideas was provided. We will brainstorm ideas for kids' activities at next month's meeting. Commissioners should send their kids activates ides to Molly via email before the next meeting.
 - Story time event for kids? A discussion about incorporating story telling into the farmers market. Maybe do a stone soup story at the last market?
- Corn roast
 - Volunteers- Some volunteers have signed up via Sign Up Genius. Have enough for set up. Need more people during main serving time and clean up shifts.
 - See if we can get community service kids to volunteer for next year. They came during 2013 and were very helpful.

8. Farmers' Market L Vendor Liaison report- None. Not present.

9. Farmers' Market Manager report

- Rise 'n Roll- As of 7/21/2014 Rise'n'Roll has withdrawn from the farmers market. The reasons they gave were not making enough money to make the long trip work it for them. They had given Jessica warning three weeks prior that they might pull out of the market. Now that they are gone, we only have one bread vendor, Ingram Bread and Jam, who are doing a great job but are a small company and are not able to provide enough bread to meet the demand at the market. They sell out every week. Jessica contacted Red Hen who again declined to re-join the market. Jessica contacted Katic bakery, a referral from Jim Vitalo. Katic said they were glad that we asked, but would be unable to add another market to their Saturday schedule mid-season. They'd appreciate the opportunity to apply to the market next year. Jessica has spoken to Nordic Creamery who does some re-selling of bread made by Crumb Chicago at other markets. Nordic volunteered to speak to Crumb to see if they'd want to do this sort of arrangement at Oak Park. Jessica told Nordic that it is unclear if this sort of thing would be allowed under our rules. It wouldn't fit the co-op rules, since Nordic and Crumb are not located near one another and since Nordic is a cheese vendor, not a bread vendor. Also, Crumb is the bakery who we initially accepted into the market for 2014 but who withdrew from the market three weeks before opening day.
- Angry neighbor- On 8/2/2014 during clean-up after the farmers market, a neighbor approached market staff to discuss his concern regarding: 1) trash was being picked up at 5:30AM on Monday mornings and was therefore waking up him and his family and 2) vendors were not cleaning up after their space adequately enough, leaving food on the ground which attracts animals and leads to problems with squirrels in the neighborhood. The neighbor threatened litigation if these issues were not corrected. Jessica received his comments and concerns and told him she'd contact public works regarding the trash pick-up time and remind the vendors to

clean up after themselves. Subsequently, Jessica spoke with public works who said that they'd contact Waste Management's supervisor and ask that pick up not be done so early in the morning. Village ordinance dictates that trash pick up cannot take place earlier than 7AM in a residential area. Jessica sent an email to vendors asking them to clean up their spaces after the market.

- DVCP funding update- So far this season we have received three checks from Experimentation Station in the amounts of \$1,445.33, \$1,023.00 and \$1,468.94. Additional funds raised by Warren Bakker, John Owens, and the Shawnash Institute will be disbursed to the Village directly from Shawnash as soon as the grant agreement between these two entities is finalized. Also, the Village received a block grant in the amount of \$6,000 to fund double value coupons starting July 2014 through September 2015. In the past we've struggled with not having enough monies for this program. Now we have a lot of money so we need to make sure we adequately advertise the program to LINK customers so that we can utilize all the funds. We can assume that there will be no disruption in double value coupon distribution for the remainder of 2014.

10. Report from Church Liaison Jeff Petertil:

- Things going well. One concern is that people sitting along the curb in the alley. Concerned from a safety and neighbor relations standpoint. Not sure what the solution is. More people who want to sit than there is space for at the tables and chairs area. Jeff has received comments on these issues from someone working with the church and from North Wichart, not from neighbors.
- Jeff asks what happened with the volunteers from AmeriCorps who were going to help with trash and recycling. Molly says she hasn't heard anything definitive from them and is therefore assuming they will not be participating.

11. Report from Vendor Liaison Jim Vitalo- None. Not present.

12. Adjourn 8:40pm

Next Meeting Wednesday, September 10, 2014 7PM