



Hammond Farmers Market Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 12, 2020
Hammond City Council Chambers
12PM

Minutes

Call to Order: No call to order due to no quorum present

Roll Call:

Denise Austin (Absent)
Brandon Faust (Present)
Sandy Fleenor (Present)
Amy Guilbeau (Absent)
Tiffany Bel (Absent)
Sherrie Taylor (Absent)
Elsbet Hollywood (Present)
Lauren Funnell (Removed)

Old Business:

1. Approval of 10/8 Meeting Minutes

No motion was made to approve the minutes due to lack of quorum.

2. HFM Non-Profit Application – Board Position Descriptions

Michelle overviewed the positions of president and secretary at a minimum is needed to apply to become a non-profit. Although, it would be ideal to function as a full non-profit board with 4 positions: president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Members discussed levels of interest of vendors to take on these positions. The conversation evolved to positions on this committee, with a new committee up for nomination to start January 2021. Michelle will follow up with all vendors via newsletter to recruit new committee members and inform everyone about the non-profit structure projected for 2021, as this committee may evolve to the non-profit board once we apply.

Sandy Fleenor provided clarification on committee member commitments. Members are committed to 2 year terms. Michelle will work on locating by-laws of other documents for how the committee operates.

No motion was made to approve board positions due to lack of quorum.

New Business:

1. HFM Customer Survey Presentation and Report – Chris Moghaddami

This item was not covered due to lack of quorum. It will be moved to the December agenda.

2. Shop Small Saturday – November 28, 2020

Michelle updated present members that Shop Small Saturday will be the Saturday after Thanksgiving and the DDD will plan an event to promote the day.

3. Holiday Market – December 19, 2020

Michelle updated present members that the DDD is planning a Holiday Market on December 19th. It will include cross promotion with Urban Market Experience (UME), a group that supports black-owned businesses in the Hammond area.

4. Manager Report

Michelle updated present members that the Pavilion Location Committee was dissolved on 10/27/2020 to pursue the old feed and seed location as a community pavilion, and to dedicate time and funds to re-vamping the greenspace behind 2 W. Thomas St. (where the market currently sets up). Public comment opportunities are available to attend and vendor feedback can get given at all these opportunities. Michelle distributed a paper survey to vendors interested in providing feedback at the 11/7 market. The market will stay at this location for the foreseeable future. One area that this committee wanted to look at was closing down the block with the post office between Thomas and Charles. It is not possible to shut down the block due to the car drop off mail boxes, but there may be opportunities to work with the post office for a temporary closure to see if we like the block being closed.

Michelle updated present members that she met with Heather Poole of Our Daily Bread Food Bank to discuss opportunities to partner to increase healthy food access to low income residents through our market. The organization is very interested in partnering with us for the roll out of SNAP at our market through a campaign and letting SNAP recipients in our area know that they can now shop at our market. We also discuss their organization's interest in being a fiscal agent for our market to accept SNAP, should our non-profit application take longer to formalize. Elsbet Hollywood mentioned that we would have to look into the legality of a fiscal agent partnership since we are quasi-governmentally operated.

Michelle updated present members on vendor check-ins for those who haven't participated since March. She sent emails asking they provide a date to me of when they anticipate being able to participate at market again no later than this Friday, November 13th or that something can be worked out if they extenuating circumstances that prevent them from participating in a pandemic. Removed vendors include Ion Soaps, Southern Charm Jersey Farm, and Louisiana Vetkoek Paleis, as they mentioned they are unable to come back indefinitely. New vendors include Rootily, selling microgreens and occasional pastured eggs. This vendor puts our market at capacity for eggs, and Family Fungi, selling culinary and medicinal mushroom products and starts on 12/5.

-Adjournment