

Oak Park Farmers' Market Commission Minutes

Wednesday, April 15, 2009, 7:00pm

Present: Chairperson Melissa Wittenberg; Commissioners Frank Pond, Betsy Fechalos, Barbara Dolan, Maggie Den Hartog; Staff Liaison Mike Charley, Market Manager Meredith Conn; Assistant Market Manager Kathy Lewis; Vendor Liaison Jim Vitalo; Guests: Gary Cuneen & Michelle Hickey, Seven Generations Ahead

Absent: Chris Mitchell, Nancy Fjortoft

The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm. The March 10 meeting minutes were corrected to note Sandy Lentz was present. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Guests: Michelle and Gary from Seven Generations Ahead, started doing work in market education in 2001. Their initiatives include waste reduction and energy efficiency. They have focused on reducing waste in schools by assessing the waste and developing strategic plans for converting food scraps into compost at Holmes School in Chicago. An Oak Park Microbrew event last summer was also one of the their initiatives. Gary will do a waste assessment at the Oak Park Market as part of our "Go Green" day scheduled for May 30th which would include having the students from Holmes do a re-cycling demonstration. Another possibility would be to have the OPFM use the Holmes Earth Tub during the summer.

Budget Report: Mike Charley We have spent \$3413.00 for CTA and newspaper advertising. Meredith made two farm visits. Meredith was also congratulated for securing \$2000 in grant monies through Illinois Ag. for advertising The Village Board will vote Monday evening to approve making the OPFM totally smoke-free.

Chairpersons Report: Melissa will distribute a flyer and coupons to the nearby neighbors. Opening Day Breakfast will be at 6:30 for vendors. Rules for vendors to distribute to their staff will be passed out at the breakfast. A new 'Manual for Chairs' of commissions has just come out and minutes of meetings will need to be submitted.

Committees & Special Events: A special meeting in early May was suggested in order to finalize preparations for "Go Green" Day.

Manager s Report: 45 parking spaces @ \$350.00each have been filled thus far. Scotch Hill Farms will not be returning. Red Hen will be back. Prairie Fruit Farm will be new, and there is a possibility that Iron Creek Hydroponics

participate. A motion to approve the above vendors was made by Frank Pond and seconded by Betsy Fechalos. Motion was unanimously approved.

Church Liaison: Jeff was not in attendance

Growers Liaison: Jim stated he has talked to some of the growers. He will be using a 50/50 solution w/ vinegar as part of "Go Green" day.

Merchandise & Sales Committee Report: Maggie reported that bags & sweatshirts are in. The rest of the merchandise will be in this month. Chris will be taking over after this order comes in. We will have products out on May 23rd. There will be three new colors for the t-shirts, royal blue, red and light pink. Prices will remain the same. Thanks to Maggie for handling all the ordering of merchandise during her tenure as a commissioner.

Friends Committee: Barb encouraged commissioners to come to the Recruitment Event on Tuesday, May 19, in the Oak Park Library at 7pm. Five new "friends" were recruited through the free OP/FYI newsletter. Another free ad will be placed in the Wednesday Journal Calendar a week before the recruitment event.

Public Relations Committee: Betsy will be working on getting the CTA ad finalized. The combined Opening Day/'Go Green' Day press release will run the week of May 18th and the Recruitment Event on Wednesday, May 13th.

Old Business: None

Next Meeting: May 13th at 7pm in the Oak Park Village Hall

The Farmers Market Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:43pm.