

## Oak Park Farmers' Market Commission Minutes July 8, 2009

PRESENT: Chair Melissa Wittenberg; Commissioners Ann Bill, Rebekah Braslow, Sam Dali (RB & SD appointed July 6, 2009), Nancy Fjortoft, Chris Mitchell, and Frank Pond; Market Manager Meredith Conn; Assistant Market Manager Kathy Lewis

ABSENT: Commissioners Warren Bakker (WB appointed July 6, 2009), Barb Dolan, and Betsy Fechalos; Church Liaison Jeff Petertil; Grower Liaison Jim Vitalo; Staff Liaison Mike Charley

The following numbers correspond to the agenda numbers:

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.
- 2) No Non-Agenda Public Comment
- 3) The June 10, 2009 minutes were approved as submitted. Pond motioned to approve: seconded by Mitchell. Approved by unanimous vote.
- 4) The budget report was accepted as submitted without comment.
- 5) Wittenberg announced the three new commissioners and stated that there is one more commissioner position to fill. When Bill's term is completed, there will be one more position to fill. We have not been advised our new CIC Liaison to contact about vacancies on the Commission. (Please be aware of e-mail instructions and information from Wittenberg prior to each Saturday's Market, advising information for the upcoming market.)
- 6) COMMITTEES/SPECIAL EVENTS: There is a need for a Management Committee meeting. Pond will schedule. Corn Roast: staff and commission members took over operation rather than a special event group. Sign-ups are needed. Braslow will assist Conn. Stone soup: we may reach out to local food vendors for a natural/environmentally-friendly substitute to the Styrofoam cups: too many were used last year and go against the "green" promotion at the market. Wittenberg is working on this.
- 7) MANAGER'S REPORT: There was a funeral service for Waneta "Sally" Biernacki, of Ted's Greenhouse, a longstanding member of the Market. Attendance for July 4<sup>th</sup> was down, perhaps because of the Oak Park parade and the questionable rainy weather. Conn and Lewis are re-aligning spaces on the east/Elmwood side of the market to better accommodate Red Hen/Barry's Berries. There was a discussion about empty spaces early in/into the season when vendors pay for spaces (for the entire season) but only fill them when their major crop is ready, leaving it vacant and apparently open/unused/available early in the season. Should we consider pro-rating said spaces and finding vendors to fill in the space on a week-to-week basis? Conn and Lewis will consider this and report back, although the Commission realizes that having "part-season" spaces

would be difficult to manage and oversee. Conn has sent the second report to the State regarding the \$2000 grant. The State is waiting for money from the USDA. No new applications have been submitted by any vendors requesting participation in the 2009 market. The deadline for inclusion in the 2009 season was March 15, 2009.

- 8) No CHURCH LIAISON report.
- 9) No new CIC LIAISON
- 10) GROWERS' LIAISON: Jim Vitalo reports via e-mail that everything is going well.
- 11) No MERCHANDISE/SALES report. Please keep track of any product requested that is not currently available.
- 12) The Oak Park Food Pantry, Fraternite Notre Dame, and Hepzibah continue to want and accept the "CARING CARROTS" (excess produce otherwise thrown away). Sarah's Inn was not interested, but now is. Rae Kalin has expressed interest for West Suburban PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter)
- 13) PR COMMITTEE: CTA/Green/Blue Line ads are up. Since many of us have not seen them, we'd like to get photos and documentation of them.
- 14) NEW BUSINESS: Staff proposes a vendor visit where staff/commissioners will visit and have vendor cook for us. This was proposed by Iron Creek Farm. Commissioners think that visits to the vendors are a very good idea since the ordinance requirement that vendors produce their product can be seen first hand.
- 15) No OLD BUSINESS
- 16) NEXT MEETING DATE: August 12, 2009
- 17) There was a move to adjourn the regular meeting by Mitchell, seconded by Pond and approved unanimously.
- 18) Motion by Pond to convene an Executive Session, seconded by Bill.  
There was consideration of the June 26, 2009 memo from Village Manager Tom Barwin to Conn regarding "Marion Street Cheese Market Recommendation." A response was discussed at length. It will be prepared and forwarded by the Commission to Barwin.

Motion to adjourn at 9:10p.m. by Fjortoft. Seconded by Mitchell and approved unanimously.