



FARMERS' MARKET COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2019
7:00PM
Village Hall – Room 101

Present: Laura Lencioni (Chair), Liz Stolfa, Julia Knier, Dina Ross, Dominic Cianciolo, James-Robinson-Parran, Jill Stewart, Rachel Hahs, Katie Weaver, Market Manager: Colleen McNichols, Church Liaison: Jeff Petertil

Excused: Commission: Myndi Devore, Jennifer Purrenhage, Staff Liaison: Mike Charley, Vendor Liaison: Jim Vitalo

Guests: VOP Trustee Arti Walker-Peddakotla, CIC Liaison: Frank Pond

- 1) Call to Order @ 7:03, first by Ross, second by Cianciolo
- 2) Agenda Approval: Approved, first by Cianciolo, second by Ross
- 3) Public Comment: None
- 4) Approval of Minutes – June 12, 2019: Approved (with minor change about portable toilet language at the Church), first by Knier, Second by Cianciolo
- 5) Chair Report (Laura Lencioni): Lencioni read the 2019 Commission work plan and reviewed each discussed each item. She reported on our progress and discussed initiatives that need volunteers. Two farm visits have been completed and 6 more are being planned for August/early September. Stewart volunteered to do a head count in the near future for our records. A customer survey was discussed for end of summer. We are on schedule and on target in regard to the Work Plan. Robinson-Parran offered to help support Purrenhage with the volunteer committee by doing outreach and entertainment and meetings. Purrenhage will continue the sign-up genius and email outreach work. Earth Day was discussed as a substitute for A Day In The Village. Very few commissioners are available on the first Sunday in June when Day in the Village is always scheduled. Lencioni mentioned the new Peter Sagal Market promo video and encouraged everyone to share it with their networks and help promote the farmers.
- 6) Farmers' Market Liaison Report (Mike Charley): No report. Was not present.
- 7) Farmers' Market Manager Report (Colleen McNichols):
 - a) McNichols is still looking for liquid dairy vendors and organic fruit vendors to fill the spots. She has not found any who could commit.
 - b) Various local chefs have been invited to do a cooking demo but none of them have turned in their Temporary Food Permit application.
 - c) McNichols asked that everyone who is in town and available to please sign up to help with the annual corn roast in some way. Last year, Purrenhage and Cianciolo were over taxed and worked very hard all day, as we were short of

- volunteers. McNichols thanked last year's team for their hard work and excellent commitment to the success of the event.
- d) As part of the Plastic Free July VOP program, Market staff have handed out 13,000 compostable shopping bags to the vendors to give to shoppers during the month of July. The bags were purchased from the VOP Sustainability dept. budget. In addition, we collected returned plastic pots from customers and gave them to the vendors to reuse, rather than recycle.
 - e) McNichols has to sort all bins, with her assistants at the end of each market day. If any of them are contaminated, Waste Management would not empty the bins and would flag them. Knier has been doing a great job lining up volunteers to educate the Market visitors on proper composting and recycling during the busiest hours of the Market. The education is paying off slowly. We are seeing a slight reduction in mistakes in gray and blue bins, when volunteer educators have been present to guide folks.
 - f) McNichols asked for volunteer guest writers for the Oak Park Eats blog. Lencioni will work on a sign-up genius schedule for those writers. McNichols time is limited to complete Market reconciliation and accounting and important event tasks and does not have time to write blog every week, unfortunately.
- 8) Committee/Project Reports: Stewart (Public Relations) discussed her blog ideas regarding highlighting farmers and their unique stories. A meeting was scheduled for Stewart and VOP Communications Dept. to discuss her ideas and get an idea of the platforms available.
Knier (Sustainability) discussed her ongoing sustainability programs at the Market and how recycled plastic cannot be sold now (changing market for recycling-no more Chinese buyers) and therefore recycling should be a last option not a first.
- 9) Old Business None.
- 10) New Business: None.
- 11) Adjourned at 8:21 pm, first by Knier and second by Ross

Next Meeting Wednesday, August 14, 2019, 7-9 pm, Room 101, Village Hall