

**CITY OF DEXTER
FARMERS MARKET AND COMMUNITY GARDEN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2015**

The regular meeting of the City of Dexter Farmers Market and Community Garden Oversight Commission was called to order at 5:31 pm at the City Offices, 8123 Main Street.

ROLL CALL

Present: Carol Jones, Jeff Peters, Julie Knight, Martin Ruhlig, and Mark Olexa

Absent: Qualia Pant, Mary-Ellen Miller

Other Present: Brenda Tuscano, Farmers Market Manager; Justin Breyer, Assistant to the City Manager.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – JUNE 17, 2015

Motion by Knight, Seconded by Martin to approve the minutes from June 17, 2015.

Motion Adopted

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Ruhlig, Seconded by Jones to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion Adopted

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

None

VENDOR REPORT

Martin Ruhlig reported that the Market was decent this year. Jeff Peters followed up that to date, he sold a few hundred dollars less than previous years, but there were several weeks of hard rain that put a damper on the Market. He also reported that Chelsea was experiencing the same issue.

STAFF REPORT

Brenda Tuscano reported that music slowed down towards the end of the season because Gordon Darr was substitute teaching for a teacher at Dexter Schools. She also reported that the Market received a free ad in the Sun Times. It was a high quality ad with great pictures. According to reports, the Sun Times distribution is increasing in Chelsea and Pinckney. Brenda also stated that hopefully there would be more cooking demonstrations at the Market next year, and hopefully the Market will have a good turnout for the Dress-Up Your Dog contest.

COMMUNITY GARDEN BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

A. DISCUSSION OF : HIRING A SUMMER INTERN

Brenda Tuscano presented the concept of hiring a summer intern or providing room for someone to fill-in for her 2 Saturdays per month during the Market season. Brenda reported that she had communicated with Mary Ann about the concept. Jeff Peters stated that Brenda should look into formally asking the vendors to share the responsibilities of Market Manager. The Committee was generally receptive to the seasonal vendors sharing the responsibilities of Market Manager.

B. DISCUSSION OF: FARMERS MARKET BUDGET

Brenda Tuscano led discussion about the Farmers Market Budget. Discussion included increasing the vendor fees by \$10, doing something to continue offering the EBT program, and finding some way to screen the vendors from the sun, which included the discussion of setting-up a white picket fence to also block cars. The Committee then discussed their approval of painting the Farmers Market wrought iron signage. Staff reported that the item had not yet been in front of City Council, but the goal would be to paint in the spring when the snow thaws.

The Commission discussed sending the vendor policy to the MMRMA/City Attorney. Brenda reported that some vendors may not be invited back next year for setting-up late. Brenda also requested ideas for the vendor dinner.

C. DISCUSSION OF: BEGIN PLANNING FOR NEXT SEASON

The Committee gave consensus to have a November meeting, not meet in December, then meet again in January.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Move Jones, support Olexa to adjourn at 6:26 pm
Motion Carried