

Minutes of Farmers Market Board Meeting December 5, 2016

Members Present: Brian Bates, Mary Brower, Ashley Cousens, Robin Berry, Lucy Hartlove, John McClorey, Joann Brown, Waneta Cook, Jean Van Dam, Jack Laurent

Members Excused: Dean Solomon

In attendance: Erica Tosch, Ken Allen

The minutes from the October 24, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Brian moved and Jean seconded to approve the minutes – passed.

Citizens Comments on Non-Agenda Items:

Ken Allen brought up two points: 1) He is concerned that MIFMA, of which our market is a charter member, lists all markets on their locator website. It appears that some markets allow re-sale of products from as far away as the Gulf of Mexico. He feels our market should not participate with MIFMA because of this as we, and MIFMA, strongly support local vendors. Brian pointed out that there are member and non-member markets of MIFMA and are identified as such on the website. MIFMA is educating all markets as to the desirability of locally sourced products.

2) Ken wants to prepare fish products to sell at the market and does not want to have a food truck in order to do that. After some discussion, the committee feels that a food truck is totally different from prepared food in a tent. Ken has contacted the Health Department and we told him it was up to him to get the proper licensing and apply for a larger space for the next season. The committee has no problem with food prepared in a tent.

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Market Managers Report

-Erica reported that the move indoors went well and the new layout seems to be working. She is finding that marketing for the winter market is much different than for the summer market and is working on a marketing plan to address that. Mary volunteered her help.

-Because Christmas Eve and New Years Eve fall on a Saturday this year, the vendors wanted to have the Christmas Eve market on Thursday, December 22 from 3-6 pm. As far as a market around New Years Eve, half the vendors wanted one and the other half did not. After much discussion, Brian moved that for the rest of December, there will be regular markets on Saturday December 10 and 17, skip markets Saturday December 24 and 31, and have a market Thursday, December 22 from 3-6 only. Waneta seconded and this motion passed. There will be some giveaways planned for December 22.

-Erica is putting together a committee webpage with approved minutes, agendas, Board member contacts

-Erica will be working on changing the order of items on the agenda

-Erica will be gone December 17

-There was much discussion concerning the fundraising efforts which have gone toward the Pavilion project. The committee wants to know how much money has been put in from the market and from other sources. Robin will get those figures.

Welcome to New Members

We welcomed John McClorey and Mary Brower to the Board.

Committee Terms

-A motion was made by Brian and seconded by Jack to recommend to Main Street that Mary and John's terms end October 2019. Motion passed.

-Erica will ask Main Street if the representatives from MSU, the Chamber and Main Street are organizational appointments or have terms

New Business

-There was discussion about the corner spaces at the summer market having more footage than other spaces, yet being charged the same. The committee felt those spaces should be charged more. There was also discussion about what to do about longer vehicles, as the spaces are currently assigned with a 30' depth in mind. What about a 40' space? And what about a different configuration for the market? Erica will put something together for next summer for our next meeting.

The next committee meeting will be Monday, January 9, 2017 at 11 am in the Library Conference Room.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:35

Respectfully submitted,
Lucy Hartlove