

NE Iowa Food & Fitness Initiative
Fayette County Planning Team Meeting Minutes
July 17th, 2008
4:00, ISU Extension Office, Fayette

Attendees: Donna Story, Dave Runyon, Joe Organist, Karla Organist, Scot Michelson, Ron O'Kones, Christie Dennis, Carol Weidemann, Maureen Johnson, Karen Kober, Susan Baumgartner, Sheryl Struthers, Rich Witt, Dan Burkhart

1. Committee Members shared the changes they would like to see come to realization in the next 5 – 10 years. We would like to see:
 - people become more educated about their food – where it comes from and what's in it.
 - our local growing season extended, by greenhouse, hoop house, etc.
 - more local, healthy foods used in school meal programs.
 - more trails, connected trails, trails that go places! And multi use trails – biking, walking, horses... Could our bike trails go from market to market?
 - a permanent location to purchase local, healthy foods – wouldn't it be great if every town had it's own co-op?
 - more people out physically exercising and utilizing the parks and trails.
 - increased school engagement and involvement.
 - More SAFE opportunities for fitness.
 - a single location for local food storage, processing, etc. A way to utilize our local foods year round.
 - capacity built in producers, processors and customers.
2. Fayette County Trails Committee Report:
 - Met with Laura Friest from RC&D. She will be writing a grant proposal for "Safe Routes to School" for the Clermont to Elgin trail.
 - Will need to start a fundraising drive – need to raise about \$100,000.
 - Want to develop a map of the route.
 - Could tap into Scenic Byway funds for connecting the trail to Eldorado.
3. Regional F & F Leadership Team Report:
 - Committee members were given the Regional Team Summary report for review.
 - A brief summary of each work group's progress was presented.
 - The due date for our final plan has been extended to August '09.
 - Scot will check w. Kata on the progress of the mapping of Fayette County's trails.
 - Oelwein was one of the four low-resource communities selected to give \$1000 to promote food and fitness planning/discussions/activities because they participate in the BASICS program. (Other communities selected were Waukon, Postville, and Elma.) Scott Smalley and Alice Moellers have been contacted as people who may already be working with existing committees or groups in Oelwein that address food and fitness related issues, either in the school or outside the school, that could use the funds toward food and fitness related planning or programming.
 - Report was given on the FFI Networking meeting in Detroit.
4. West Union Green Pilot Community. Had a brief discussion on the relationship between the FF Initiative and this opportunity for West Union. Can they support each other in subsequent funding opportunities?
5. Webcast & Discussion:
 - Viewed the webcast "Policy and System Change".
 - Question: What systems need to be changed to realize our vision?
 - School system funding, education about food and fitness and its relationship to health, can we make "health" easy and safe? We need to increase production of local foods.
 - Question: What policies need to be created, implemented, changed or enforced to bring about that systems change?
 - Fund the school lunch programs.
 - Dept. of Ag. should quit resisting insurance on "diverse agriculture".
 - Can we provide incentives to farmers for diverse crops (like the organic incentives in Woodbury County)?
 - Local P&Z's should require sidewalks in all new developments.
 - Like Iowa Dept. of Economic Development requires a green aspect in all new requests for funding, can our communities and county funders require a healthy aspect?
6. Next Meeting: August 21st, 2008. 4:00 – 6:00, ISU Extension Office.

Our Vision:

NE Iowa is a unique place where all residents and guests of every age experience, celebrate and promote healthy locally grown food with abundant opportunities for physical activity and play EVERY DAY. Healthier people make stronger families and communities.