

Call to Order: 7:10

Approved minutes from last meeting, approved motion Marshall, Steve 2nd, all in favor.

Comments from ELFCO Owners:

-Nancy Mccrohan Elfco member and Lansing Urban Farming Project, Urbandale updated their mission focusing on food shed area (From farmer to retail to eaters). Super Local is important to them, Urbandale farmers in the floodplain, 9 farmers there. Determine farmer needs and what R their issues in re to fulfilling their issues (ie water, ownership of land vs renting, ability to make money on their goods). They try to help the farmers w this (talk to Board of Water and Light, Allen Neighborhood Center, Food Banks.....). Thinking about creating a Lansing grown brand, w minimal organic requirements. Also, farm stand every Saturday at Urbandale Farm, wants the neighbors to have access to this, via opening it up to other farmers to sell at this location vs just Urbandale Farm (lat June through October farm stand is open). Also Farmer training.

Financial Update:

-Bank Balance \$150,000. John needs to sign corporate tax account as he is the Treasurer for the Board. His name needs to be switched w Yelania's (previous ELFCO board president), who's name used to be on the account. Currently Peggy's name our office manager is on the account.

-Lake trust account - Peggy is currently listed as "owner" (typically it has been the General Manager), Yelena is listed as a "signer". This will be adjusted after April 29th member meeting/board election, and subsequent voting in of officers, with Yelena taken off and the elected treasurer being put on the account.

-22 equity requests for return of equity money thus far (funds of 20.00 to 180.00 ea).

Committee Updates:

-Stephen G. has created qualtrics account and is preparing to enter Farmer Outreach questions before Peggy will then send email and mail outreach to farmers with the Farmer Outreach questions regarding interest an ELFCO year round farmstand.

-Farmer Outreach Committee: created a survey

We will have Peggy contact Argus farms to see if they have some farmers to recommend to our list that we could call to tell them about new mission and wanting to have a Year Round Farmer Market Storefront. Committee will send a link out to farmers and give then a few weeks to respond and then contact farmers that do not respond. GIS Mapping, talked about possibility of mapping local farmers on a map.

Meeting w the E Lansing City manager, Tom Fehrenbach who was sympathetic to our mission. Talked about creating a corridor from E Lansing farmer Market and a yr round farmer Market in E Lansing and perhaps ELFCO could be the hub for this.

-Bagger Dave's is closing on corner of Hagadorn and Grand River. May get a good deal as they really want to fill it. Also, location next to Altu's, and a small location East of Harrison Rd House. We will invite someone from EMBA to be on the building Committee (They would be a non-voting Committee member).

-Building committee is created: Marshall, Michele, Stephen Andre and Peggy will be on the committee. Peggy will contact a member of the EMA Program to sit on the committee.

-Tom F wants us to meet w Nate Scramlin on Monday April 16th, which may be focused on the Urban Initiative. Nate works for mid-Michigan MEDC . He may be able to Tell us where we can have a building so we could be eligible for grant money for the urban grocery initiative.

Board Discussion/Action:

-Annual Meeting, March 19th- the board creates prelim agenda. We need to have elections and report on Farm Market Project. We will have Peggy help us finalize up the agenda for meeting under our guidelines. Board needs to recruit owners to become board members. Go online, ELFCO.coop and there is a link and application to fill out. Applications are due by April 6th. April 29th is the meeting 2-4:00 at the Hannah Center.

-Motioned to record board meetings if the proper equipment is present, minus recording executive sessions. Boards maintains the intellectual property rights. Motion - marshall - second - chris

-Marshall may attend the CCMA meeting in Portland, waiting to hear back on his scholarship application approval.

-Plan for reaching Out to Potential Partners- Could occur after we compile date interest from the farmers we contacted. We will make a good faith effort to try and come up w additional funding for the VISTA volunteer person who will be helping us. In addition to providing cash support of \$1919 to support the host fee for a Vista scholar, we agreed to make a good faith effort to find grant funds for the other half of the total ask from SHC (\$3838.)

QUICK BOARD SELF ASSESSMENT OF WHERE WE ARE SO FAR:

Each board member present, as well as Peggy, provided input. Everybody seems to feel like things are going well and in a good direction, and it is a worthy cause to continue on. While in some ways it seems like we are running behind schedule on some items, in general the feeling was that things are actually happening in good and appropriate timing/ we are in a good pace.

Also, it was mentioned that farmers and elfco members seem positive and hopeful about our efforts, especially per the recent communications with the member letter.

Comments from ELFCO owner that attended: She was impressed w our energy, worthwhile task and a big undertaking. Lots of community energy in the community now re food and local farmers.

Our next board meeting is 7:00 Monday April 16th. Peggy will text John to make sure he doesn't have a conflict.

Motion to Adjourn. 9:10