

Ferguson Farmers' Market Commission, City of Ferguson
January 12, 7:30 p.m. Via Zoom

Present: Beth von Behren, Kathy Roth, Kathy Noelker, Mary Haux, Tim Larson, Heather Robinette, Deborah Rice-Carter, Ron Brown Joseph Seastrom

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Deborah Rice-Carter and seconded by Kathy Noelker. The motion was approved.

Kathy Roth reviewed with the Commission the purpose, authority, and power of the Commission. She read this from the ordinance.

Joseph Seastrom said the City sent the RFP out on December 31. Proposals are due January 26 by 11:00 a.m.

Kathy Roth said the subcommittee is working with Live Well Events on a proposal. They have agreed to use their existing 501c organization. They have a ready-made audience with the Twilight Run where we can promote the Market.

Joseph added there is no hard timeline or deadline for the Council to review the proposals. However, he expects to make a recommendation to Council by late February.

Kathy Roth said we have two openings on the Commission. The recommendation from the organization who conducted the survey last year is to work towards more diversity in Commission membership. Commissioners are asked to reach out and talk to potential applicants. Mary has a vendor – LaRae Jackson – who may want to apply. She sells dog treats at the market.

Kathy Noelker suggested the vendor who sells eggs, but it was pointed out that she has five young children and has only been at two markets. Mary will also ask previous vendors Birdie D'Orville and Alie Flores if they are interested in serving on the Commission.

Volunteers: We should ask Peter to work the Information Booth if Bridge Bread does not come back.

It was asked if anyone had a suggestion for bakeries if Bridge Bread does not return this summer. Kathy Roth suggested Laughing Bear Bakery, which is a nonprofit that employs former prison inmates. Beth will put a "Baker's Wanted" post on two Facebook groups - #314Together and Chew in the Lou. We could also use a cheese vendor. Beth will add that to the Facebook promotions.

The question was raised - what about having food trucks. Mary said some food trucks require a minimum amount of sales and may not be interested. We do have a barbecue vendor coming back this year - Dumbbells and BBQ.

Kathy Noelker asked Joseph to let the City know how important it is to make a decision on the RFP sooner rather than later. Mary concurred and said there will be a lot to do - with bank accounts and more.

Winter Market: Mary said she wasn't sure one would be held this coming Saturday due to Covid and the weather.

Next meeting: March 9 (unless we have critical issues to discuss before then)

Adjourn: 8:02 p.m.