



LARIMER COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

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Extension Advisory Committee Meeting Meetings

May 4th, 2022
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. virtually via Zoom*

Advisory Committee members attending: Kara Rudnick, Matt Holloran, Regan Thomas, Maia Jackson

Guests: Tony Koski, Beth Thiret

Commissioner's Office: Commissioner Kristin Stephens

Extension staff attending: Kerri Rollins, Andy Weakland, Cari Brown, Alison O'Connor, Lisa Auer, Rachel Wildman, Analecia Vasquez

CALL TO ORDER: at 8:02 a.m. by Kara Rudnick

PUBLIC COMMENT: Tony Koski – Speaking on the record on the proposal of moving the Larimer County Farmers' Market: It seems like this idea is coming from places that do not have a full idea of the history of the Market and how it is operated. I would encourage more discussion with the volunteers, vendors, and other stakeholders before moving forward, as well as better transparency.

AGENDA REVIEW: No additions or changes to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Minutes approved with no changes.

BOARD FEEDBACK - Trends and issues you see in the community or other items. None.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORT/COMMENTS:

Kristin Stephens: The Commissioners are following a lot of legislation. We are working on a mobile home resident-owned park bill. We are also working with the county budget and some decisions around that. Fire restrictions were enacted last week (thankful for the

current rain today). This is a tool that we can use with the drought conditions. We're looking at our American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars to go through the allocation process for projects that will be most impactful. We have some exciting things going on. Thankful for all the work this committee does.

Kara: Congratulations to Kristin on her appointment as a 2022 Gates Family Foundation Harvard Fellow.

INTRODUCTIONS: Rachel Wildman, new Farmers' Market Coordinator and Analecia Vasquez, Retail Food Safety Coordinator.

Kerri: Analecia's position was created out of our Needs Assessment and Strategic Guidance.

Kara: Committee members please go around the room and introduce yourself for our new Extension staff members/guests.

INFORMATION ITEMS: (10 minutes, highlights)

Kara: Toby Swaford, 4-H STEM Coordinator has taken a full-time job at the State 4-H Office as the statewide STEM coordinator.

Kerri: Yes, we will be filling. We are happy for Toby's promotion into the statewide position. His position will be filled, and we have been discussing how to fill it. There is a swell of support about Juntos, and the progress made. We are considering pairing that program with the STEM program and creating a new limited term position (putting in the budget for either next year or 2024).

Lisa: We have been holding stakeholder meetings for Juntos. The school district is an overwhelming yes to bring this program to Fort Collins, with a possible start at Poudre High School in the fall.

4-H: (Bailey, Katie, Pam, Diane)

- Membership: 779 members ages 8-18, 100 Cloverbuds, 251 volunteers are approved.
- 4-H Dog Expo: March 19, 2022, at The Ranch. Over 100 members and volunteers attended for educational workshops, hands on training, and a "fun show". The event was supported by 4-H volunteers from Larimer and Boulder Counties and attendees came from 13 counties across Colorado. Feedback was very positive, and we look forward to further developing and offering this event annually.
- 4-H 101 session: March 17, 2022, at The Ranch. This event was attended by 12 new 4-H families. The feedback received is that these orientation sessions are extremely helpful to new 4-H families, and we will continue to offer at least two per year in the future.
- 4-H "Mega Meeting": The week of March 21, 2022, in Glenwood Springs. The 4-H agents attended this meeting for professional development to learn from other agents, specialists, and speakers from across Colorado and the country.

- Youth Fest: March 25-27, 2022, in Pueblo, Colorado. Three Larimer County youth attended the conference for Intermediate 4-H members. They enjoyed growing as leaders and building relationships with peers from across Colorado.
- Katie attended a planning session with Buena Vida Farm and Women's Farming Proyecto team on April 11, 2022. Curriculum development is continuing for the grant-funded Ninos: Verduras! summer program.
- Katie held two Creative Cooks orientations in preparation for the May 21, 2022, Creative Cooks contest. This contest teaches youth about meal planning and preparation, nutrition, and food safety in a creative context.
- Workshops were held weekly in the Dog Project, Small Engines, Leathercraft, Cake Decorating, Vet Science, Clothing Construction, Model Rocketry, Metalworking, Photography, Beekeeping, Scrapbooking, and Knitting.
- The Exchange Club is moving ahead with an in-person exchange two year cycle this year and next with partners in Shenandoah County, Virginia. We will be hosting the first year in July.
- Our Family and Consumer Science Team is meeting regularly in preparation to compete at the State Conference this year in June.
- Knitting project members had the opportunity to attend the Interweave Yarn Fest in Loveland with entry fees partially covered by the Larimer County 4-H Foundation. Members completed a scavenger hunt and learned more about their project area through interacting with vendors and instructors.
- Recruitment and confirmation of superintendents and judges for the 4-H General and Family and Consumer Science Projects for the County Fair. If you are interested in supporting youth through one of these roles or by volunteering, please contact Katie Daywalker at kdaywalker@larimer.org.
- Sheep & Goat Tag In: Will be held on May 10, 2022.
- Livestock Workshop Series: Will be beginning on May 12, 2022 and will continue through the end of June.
- Meat Quality Assurance: Scheduled for May 20, 2022.
- Meat Quality Assurance PowerPoint: Scheduled for May 27, 2022.
- Sheep & Goat Camp: Scheduled for June 6, 2022.
- Swine Camp: Scheduled for June 10-June 11, 2022.

Horticulture and Farmers' Market (Alison and Rachel):

- Presentations from both Rachel Wildman (Farmers' Market Coordinator) and Alison O'Connor will be shared during this meeting.

Food & Nutrition (Amber and Analecia):

- Analecia Vasquez has been hired and been with us for just over a month. She oversees our Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) training for restaurant managers. She will be teaching a National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) curriculum to better serve a more diverse audience. Analecia's goal for the first CFPM in person training on May 18, 2022, is to reach out to possible candidates in need of certification. Her focus is on restaurants and mobile units. She will be promoting the classes via fliers, brochures and social media. She also intends to ride along with Larimer County Health

inspectors to build relationships with businesses. Soon Analecia plans to meet with BAC to receive input on what is needed and how to reach the business community.

- Amber is working on a new partnership with UC Health to offer a nutrition curriculum to the community.
- Amber had 55 attendees at an in-person Mediterranean Diet class at the Senior Center in March.
- Amber has a series of various classes scheduled for fall.
- Amber is working with the statewide FCS team to offer the Master Food Safety Advisor certification training to agents in May. This training has not been available since 2019.
- Amber is working on developing the next four financial literacy courses in a virtual format to offer a “part two” to the Money Smart Series.
- Amber is developing a new three-part series for Market Days! produce recipients.
- Amber is working on courses for Mediterranean Diet on a Budget, Nutrition for Older Adults and Preserving Food with Confidence.

Ag & Natural Resources (Karen):

- Native Plant Master Program: The program received 43 applications. Courses will be held at Lory State Park, High Plains Environmental Center and Red Mountain Open Space. All classes are full, as are the Grass ID class and RMNP Alpine Wildflowers class.
- It is going to be a busy year again with small acreage pasture management site visits. Karen has scheduled six site visits for the end of April and early May. She has also received 56 calls and emails for March through mid-April on ag and natural resources topics.
- Pasture management: Karen held a virtual pasture management presentation for the Larimer County Horseman’s Association.
- Emergency preparedness: Karen gave three presentations on emergency preparedness at the Community Conversations with Commissioner Shaddock-McNally.
- Climate Smart Larimer County initiative: Karen is completing a six-month commitment on the task force.

Community Development (Sue, Lisa and Cheryl):

- Sue and Cheryl are completing a NextFifty grant proposal to expand and coordinate county-wide communication and outreach efforts to connect older adults to community resources (SAP 2.0). This effort has come out of the Healthy Aging Resource Group that Sue developed during COVID and is a response to the increased social isolation and agency disconnects that have resulted from COVID. If funded, this will result in a .50 FTE coordinator position.
- Sue is in the middle of an “input session tour” across the state gathering feedback from internal and external stakeholders about what “Health Extension” might look like in the upcoming years. She is working with national consultants from Community Initiatives to help build a roadmap for the Improved Health goal of the rural engagement initiative and for a broader Health Extension effort being implemented across the state. Results of the discovery process will be shared at the end of May and can inform future planning for Larimer County Extension health initiatives.

- Cheryl is ramping up Market Days! for Older Adults planning for this coming Farmers' Market season which starts June 4, 2022. Market Days! has nine community partners to start off the season. With increased funding, we will increase the bag distribution from 60 to 70 per week. We have three new monetary sponsors totaling \$7,500 and in-kind sponsors totaling \$3,000. We also have received \$20,000 from the Larimer County Office on Aging for this project. We have a student intern from the Department of Human Development and Family Studies for the summer. She will start May 16, 2022. Produce distribution this year will be a hybrid of delivery and in-person market pick up. Please come and visit our tent!
- Lisa and Katie have held two Juntos 4-H collaboration/informational meetings. There is a lot of community support to bring the program to Larimer County. Poudre High School has been identified as the school with the most need for the program. We plan to launch the family engagement nights in late fall or early spring.
- Lisa and Toby attended the Celebration del Dia del Nino on April 30, 2022. Lisa and Toby provided STEM activities for the children and talked to families about Extension, with an emphasis on 4-H, STEM and youth programming. They also highlighted the upcoming Farmers' Market and the vegetable tattoos that Rachel provided were a big hit.
- The FLTI 10 session adult and youth civic learning labs had their last class and presentations on April 28, 2022. The graduation is set for this Thursday, May 5, 2022, and we are honored to have Commissioner Stephens join the event. Nine adults and 13 youth will be graduating.

PRESENTATION: Alison O'Connor and Rachel Wildman, Horticulture, CMG, Larimer County Farmers' Market (refer to PowerPoint attached for both presentations)

- A. Rachel gave a presentation on the Larimer County Farmers' Market that included statistics, nonprofit community groups, 2022 market sponsors, special events, Market Days!, and Market Ambassadors.
 - a. Regan: Are the musicians sponsored?
 - b. Rachel: Yes, they will be paid cash through a sponsorship. We did a Google Form sign up with a list of dates and we are filling up quickly. No one can sign up more than twice.
- B. Alison gave a presentation on Master Gardener Training, Master Gardener Pepper Trials, Colorado Master Gardeners (CMGs) and the CSU Trial Gardens, Gardening Webinars, CO-Horts Blog, Grow and Give Project, 2021 Larimer County Donations, Grow Smart Eat Smart, The Ranch Demonstration Gardens, updates with residential landscapes (drought stress, turf issues, freeze injury, fire blight).
 - a. Kara: How are we doing with Emerald Ash Borer?
 - b. Alison: Good question. We have not found it since 2020. It is there, but we just have not found it. The City of Fort Collins has begun to treat trees. It's moving much more slowly because of the colder nights. The Japanese Beetle may be a bigger problem this year.
 - c. Regan: Is the State offering more incentives with removing or watering lawns less frequently?

- d. Alison: Yes, but they are more short-term solutions incentives. Education on watering and alternatives would be a better long-term solution.

DISCUSSION:

A. Board recruitment

- a. Kerri: We currently have three applications. They would most likely start at our July meeting.
- b. Regan: We technically have five now since we lost Richard and can have up to 12 members.

B. 2021 Budget to Actuals overview (refer to chart)

- a. Kerri: I will share this document online. This is an overview with a review of the last three years and includes the 2021 budget. The budget process is always evolving. Last year was the first year staff submitted their own budgets for 2022 and the effect of COVID in 2020 and 2021 is shown. Last year we had some salary savings with staffing. We were able to put back around \$140,000 into our pot. Budget wise we are doing very well as we continue to diversify the sources of our funds. The pie charts are to give a visual of revenue and our expenses. The staff does a great job of managing the budget. We are hoping to spend more this year, possibly by filling new positions and other community needs that we outlined in our Strategic Guidance documents.
- b. Matt: Is Extension projecting a substantial increase in a few categories? Is that realistic?
- c. Kerri: It may not be just depending on various factors. Miscellaneous revenues are used as somewhat of a passthrough.

C. Powerhouse 2 tour information and discussion (refer to slides)

- a. Kerri: Since our last meeting we have met with Extension staff. I will have Rachel discuss the Farmers' Market statistics.
- b. Rachel: Shared Market statistics, vendor applications trends, information from long-term vendors, and why vendors don't return.
- c. Kerri: Summary of staff feedback, including pros and cons, staff focus group summary, options summary, possible next steps, and any unanswered questions.
- d. Kerri: I would like to discuss thoughts on options presented.
- e. Regan: Can we do both? We have already discussed that where like where the current Market is. I like the Mercado idea and would like to flush that out further. To me, Mercado is where people can do arts and crafts. It would be good to maintain that opportunity. That would be my vote - Stay where we are and flush out the Mercado idea.
- f. Matt: My thoughts are similar to Regan's. What I keep coming back to is a trend line. The Market where we currently stand is outgrown. Something must happen unless we want to flatline the market size. Discussions around options are necessary and I like the idea of the Mercado and making it unique. Don't have the Farmers' Market and the Mercado competing. I think I would consider surveying the people that are coming through the market. In my opinion, the "do nothing" option is off the table.

- g. Maia: I agree with Matt. “Do nothing” is not an option. We must address what is happening in our community. I have concerns about moving the Market because the current location is so great. I would lean towards the “do both” option. I do like Regan’s idea of potentially expanding but have reservations about it. I don’t think closing Oak Street would be an option. I like the idea of the Mercado.
- h. Kara: I love the feedback. I also really think the “do both” idea is the way to go. Starting to contact the community as soon as possible to determine needs is vitally important to start the process for the Mercado idea. CSU interns working in conjunction with this idea may be a great opportunity. I think if we had a vote, I think we would land on the “do both” idea.
- i. Kristin: I am kind of interested in your feedback. Hearing the “do both” option is interesting. I think this is worth pursuing. I don’t see a lot of desire to move the actual Market at this point.
- j. Alison: I appreciate all the feedback. For those that have been with Extension, the idea of moving the Market has come and gone. I guess my main concern is that the idea of the Mercado with our current staff, would have to make some structural changes because right now Rachel and our team are maxed out. I am just wondering how this would actually work. Up until last year we had three markets in the city of Fort Collins alone, which is different from other cities such as Longmont and Boulder that only have one. Also asking if the vendors are stretched too thin.
- k. Rachel: It is a good opportunity. It is just difficult for me to make a decision one way or another without a structure in place at the Powerhouse. It is difficult for me to picture how it would all work and to try to make it successful. It would take a lot of work to do so.
- l. Kara: I think at this point the Advisory Committee is recommending more research. I’m asking for a motion putting forward money for a consultant.
- m. Matt: I motion the Advisory Committee support the decision-making ability of Extension to spend money in order to gather the information needed.
- n. Regan: I second that.
- o. Kara: All those in favor please say “ay”. The “ays” have it.

MEETING ADJOURNED: at 10:04 a.m.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: July 6, 2022, at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Weakland
May 4, 2022