



LARIMER COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

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Extension Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2023
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. virtually via Zoom

Advisory Board members attending: Kara Rudnick, Matt Holloran, Kelly Pollard, Regan Thomas, Xochil Arellano

Commissioners' Office: Commissioner Kristin Stephens not in attendance

Extension staff attending: Cary Weiner, Andy Weakland, Alison O'Connor, Analecia Vasquez, Cari Brown, Christa Timmerman, Lisa Auer, Jess Callen

CALL TO ORDER: at 8:01 a.m. by Kara Rudnick.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

AGENDA REVIEW: Agenda is approved.

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

BOARD FEEDBACK: Trends and issues in the community? Other items?

Kara: I still run into people who have never been to the Farmers' Market. It amazes me!

Matt: Currently there isn't a lot going on with the climate change initiatives.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORT/COMMENTS:
Commissioner Stephens was not in attendance.

INFORMATION ITEMS: (10 minutes, highlights)

4-H: (Bailey, Pam, Diane and Diana)

- The Larimer County and Colorado State Fairs were very successful.
- Members will be turning in their record books to Club Organizational Leaders for project completion. If members want to participate in the record book contest, they need to inform their club leaders who will turn them in to the office.
- CSU conducted ultrasound data for 4-H members who participated in the Carcass Contest.
- Larimer County had five representatives qualify for the Colorado State Fair Youth Livestock Sale. The total number of participants in the sale was 108 out of more than 800 entries that exhibited in youth livestock shows.
- Enrollment for the new 4-H year begins on October 1, 2023.

Ag & Natural Resources (Jess):

- Introduction of new Ag and Natural Resources Extension Specialist, Jess Callen.
- Jess: I am Jess Callen and I am the new Ag and Natural Resources Extension Specialist. This is my fourth or fifth week on the job. Right now I am taking classes, meeting with people and finding out where I can fill in the gaps. My background is in soil sciences, which I would love to incorporate into this position.

Community Development (Lisa):

- The 2022 Spanish Aging Mastery program alumni just finished a financial wellness series in collaboration with Fuerza Latina and FCCAN.
- The Aging Mastery program in Spanish language will be held this fall on Tuesday afternoons beginning on September 5, 2023.
- FLTI will hold its facilitator training in September. Larimer County will be training two new bilingual facilitators to add to our current facilitator list.

Food & Nutrition (Amber and Analecia):

(Retail Food Safety Program-CFPM and FSW)

- There will continue to be two Certified Food Protection Management (CFPM) and Food Safety Works (FSW) classes offered monthly.
- Analecia is working on scheduling a private FSW class for both McKee Hospital and Banner Health.
- Analecia is offering a private FSW class for Back Door Grill in Fort Collins.
- Twenty-one CFPM vouchers have been distributed, with six signed up and nine committed to attend after the busy season at their businesses.
- Current 2023 numbers: 81 total participants with 69 passing. This is an 85% passing rate.

(Family Consumer Science)

- Amber is offering seasonal food preservation classes to the general public July-October.

- Amber is starting a new partnership with a retirement community to offer food and nutrition classes to residents.
- Teaching food waste reduction/food preservation course to Community Corrections Alternative Sentencing clients.

Health and Well-Being (Christa and Cheryl):

- Please see Presentation section.

Horticulture and Farmers' Market (Alison and Rachel):

(Horticulture)

- Master Gardener applications are open until September 15, 2023. The training has changed for 2023-2024, with classes starting in November and ending in March. We are trying to extend the amount of time that people can take learning the content. The change was also made to help staff and their spring workload and many of the volunteer opportunities start in early April and our new volunteers can jump right in.
- Kara: With CMG are we selective with applications?
- Alison: Yes, unfortunately we are. I want to get to know the applicants because it is a big commitment and I want to make sure they understand and are doing it for the right reasons.
- The Front Range Tree Recommendation document is being revised and Alison is serving on the revision committee. The document was first published and has been in circulation for 20 years and is out of date. It includes tree species and cultivars recommended for the Colorado Front Range.
- Alison will attend the National ESP Conference in Billings, Montana at the end of September; she'll represent the Zeta Chapter as the current president.
- On August 29, 2023, the Routt County Master Gardeners visited Larimer County to visit several gardens and attended the Twilight Garden Series. With Amy Lentz from Weld County, we hosted a Larimer-Weld-Routt CMG social.
- On September 29, 2023, the CSU Department of Horticulture is having their third Come to the Table if you would like to attend.

(Farmers' Market)

- With Rachel's transition to the 4-H Specialist position, her responsibilities have been divided amongst Alison, Andy and Paula. A huge thank you to the Master Gardeners for stepping up even more to support market operations on Saturdays.
- Refilling Rachel's position is in discussion with more information to follow.
- Alison: There are eight weeks of the market left and things are going great. It is a lot of work and I am grateful for what Rachel has done. We have had a great season so far and right now everything in season is really good!
- Kara: For those that do not know, Rachel was hired into the 4-H Specialist position as well as still continuing to work on the market.
- Peaches and roasted peppers are at the market and sales have increased.
- The Critter Carnival will be on September 16, 2023 with several animal-focused groups.
- The Fall Festival with 4-H will be October 28, 2023.

General/Other (Cary)

- Starting to see draft aims and key performance indicators on issues we're addressing. Could this be an opportunity for Advisory Committee engagement?
- We are getting ready to hire for the Farmers' Market position. It will be a full time position and there is a process that we will go through to get it to a full FTE, but that is our goal. Managing the market as well as local food businesses development and also access to underserved members of our community are all options that we would like to add to this position.
- Regan: I know that the position is more like 1.5 FTE around the market time so the need is there to support a change. It seems to me it could easily be a 1 FTE position.
- Cary: I agree. During the off season is where we are thinking of what responsibilities that position will have.
- Regan: Marketing and vendor relationship management would be things in the off season that I think would fill that time.
- Lisa: The Spanish speaking community was very appreciative of the Vendor 101 classes held in Spanish. I know that there is a successful vendor at the Market now that took those classes and are now able to participate successfully.
- Cary: We also want to draft some big picture aims on how we are impacting issues in our community and working with stakeholders to really articulate the change that we are trying to change in the community. Maybe develop some performance indicators that we can use to track our progress and our success. We are just slowly starting those conversations and would like to bring that to the community to overview at some point as well.
- Kara: I agree and think that would be a very appropriate idea to bring in front of the committee.

PRESENTATION: Health and Well-Being/Healthy Aging - Christa and Cheryl
(Refer to PowerPoint slides for presentation).

- A. Senior Access Points: Increase community awareness about existing resources.
- B. Market Days for Older Adults: 2023 Season (5th season)

Regan: How do you bring in donations?

Christa: We have a donation spot on our website, at the booth itself, as well as reaching out to donors in the community to help support the program.

Alison: I will also add the market has sponsorships so getting sponsors to support Market Days instead of the market was one way as well.

- C. Larimer Advanced Care Planning
- D. Radon and Healthy Homes
- E. More to come!

Christa: Are there any questions?

Regan: Colorado is one of only three states that don't provide funding for healthy aging?

Christa: I'll have to look into that because that is something Cheryl would know more about.

Alison: There are several states that do, but Colorado does not. This stresses the importance of the Market Days program.

Matt: Are the grants being applied for on the national level or state level?

Christa: For food access and mental health there are grants out there, but we have failed to secure the funding. They are both state and federal level. I will be looking into some more funding options.

Matt: It is surprising that it is that difficult to find the funding. Excellent presentation.

DISCUSSION:

A. Date and location of the annual Showcase (Cari)

Cari: Elections has the room booked that we would normally use. We typically do Showcase in March, but the room is booked all of March and April. We looked at January 31, 2024 when the room was possibly open. Since the location was great, we are leaning towards January 31 but would like some feedback.

Kara: Does it make more sense to do January instead of April?

Cary: We think that April is just too far out into the new year. We welcome everyone's input. I have attended one pre-Covid, but I don't feel like I know what Showcase is all about.

Kara: I feel Showcase is a great time to invite all of those leaders and present to them all of the amazing things we do in Extension. I thought it was really good last year. I liked the location as well.

Cari: I am working with some 4-H families and have already started filming with one 4-H family. I am looking to speak with some 4-H leaders as well and maybe a 4-H specialist or two and discussing what we want to highlight. We haven't featured 4-H in recent years so it makes sense to feature it this year. I also want to print a trifold annual report.

Lisa: Are you wanting to incorporate Juntos in this?

Cari: That is something I am working with Cary on if we think we should and if the program is ready to showcase.

Cari: I also wanted to get feedback on inviting Fort Collins City Council members.

Regan: Yes, I think that would be great to reach out. I also feel like April would be okay to do as well if it worked out.

Cary: Do you feel like it's easier for people to attend in April than in January?

Regan: I think it just depends on the weather or if we get snow storms.

Xochil: I liked the idea in April because it's coming up to the Farmers' Market opening. January should be fine and I don't see any issues

with that.

Matt: Either way is fine with me. Focus on who we want to engage rather than focusing on our needs would be the best time.

Kara: I think we would recommend January 31 because of the availability of the leadership schedule.

Kara: Any further topics of discussion?

B. Vacancies on Extension Advisory (Regan)

Kara: Yes, there are still vacancies and we are still looking. Kelly Pollard is not here, but she is also on the Committee, as well as Katelin. That should have us at six members now.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:59 a.m.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: November 1, 2023, at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Weakland
September 6, 2023

Per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Larimer County will provide reasonable accommodation to qualified individuals with a disability who need assistance. Services can be arranged with at least seven (7) business days' notice. Please email us at aweakland@larimer.org or call (970) 619-6002 or Relay Colorado 711. "Walk-in" requests for auxiliary aids and services will be honored to the extent possible but may be unavailable if advance notice is not provided.