

Unit 22 Extension Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 9th, 2021 (Virtual)

The meeting was called to order at 6:34pm by Brian Mueller – President

Members Present: Wilbon Anthony, Amy Kolweier, Adam Mestemacher, Brian Mueller, Raeleen Neary, Emelie Nilges, Rosemary Dorsey, Megan Huelsmann, and Chelsey Ammann.

Youth Present: Janella Neary and Claire Dorsey

Staff Member Present: Amy Cope

During roll call, each member gave their 4-H background along with what their current roles with 4-H or other organizations regarding this extension council consist of.

The September meeting minutes were reviewed by all. Wilbon A. made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Amy K.. Motion carried, a vote was taken, all ayes.

- Youth Report
 - Janella and Claire both presented on what their clubs have been doing over the winter. Both informed the council about how their clubs were keeping people engaged during Covid. Both clubs received many honors from the October State Fair.

- Staffing / Facilities Report
 - Amy C. discussed the staff positions available for ESL EFNEP and also a Collinsville 4-H Educator.
 - Amy C. discussed the staff position available for the SNAP-ED in Collinsville and also a Marketing Coordinator for the unit.
 - While the Marketing Coordinator position is part-time, Amy C. is trying to find someone she thinks will be around for a while to help current staff learn more about the marketing side of the organization.
 - The Marketing Coordinator position will be 15-20 hours a week and pay \$19.49/hr.

- Facilities Report
 - Amy C. has finalized the 3 year renewals with the Collinsville and Monroe County leases. Monroe County is getting a great price per sq/ft.
 - Brian M. asked about going more remote and how Amy C. sees the need for office space in the future. Amy C. will be taking a County Director online course starting in March that will help her develop the strategy regarding being remote while also following Extension's Mission and Vision statements.
 - All council members felt there is still much to be learned trying to balance the remote vs. in person contact missing from these Covid times.

- Programming Report
 - Each council member received a flyer for Gateway Green Industry Conference, Fruit and Vegetable Conference, Four Seasons Gardening Webinar, Virtual Weekend Gardener, Virtual Maker Workshop, Virtual Color of Spring, Virtual Heritage Arts Workshop, Virtual Floriculture Workshop, and Connecting with Cultures and Continents.
 - Many council members recognized the efforts staff are doing to keep people engaged.
 - Brian M. asked a follow up question regarding the Livestock shows.
 - Amy C. answered that they are hoping to do in person showings but are also working on other accommodations for people not comfortable with the face to face contact.
 - Rosemary D. asked how enrollment was doing. Amy C. said our extension is running about 75% while others are running 40-50% their normal enrollment numbers.

- Financial
 - Amy C. informed the council the financial statement are looking as expected. She has seen some reduced travel and programming expenses but that can be expected with Covid.
 - Campus introduced an Early Retirement Program that will have about 130 qualified employees. So far, only 30-40 of them have taken the option. This retirement program will begin in March. Unit 22 does not have an qualified employees.
 - Amy C. said that Campus is looking for a Cost Savings plan that will cut all units 5-10%.

- Business
 - Amy C. stated that all three counties are still brainstorming ideas for fundraisers.
 - Amy C. is currently undergoing a standard Civil Rights review that is done every 3 years by Campus. She expects they will find issues but she is ready for any opportunity to improve the unit.
 - Brian M. asked the council how they felt regarding the Zoom meetings. All members responded with mostly positives ranging from easier on travel, forces some members to learn new things, and also gives flexibility regarding your ability to be in different locations
 - This council still needs 1-2 more people from Monroe County and another 1-2 people from St. Clair County to join. The Council is currently at the minimum number it is allowed. Amy C. is going to reach out to members who have not been at the past few meetings to see if they are still able to participate.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21st, 2021 at 6:30p.m. Location: TBD

Rosemary D. made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Raeleen N.. Motion carried, vote was taken, all ayes.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:10 p.m.