

University of Illinois Extension Unit 3**Council Meeting/Zoom Meeting**

February 23, 2021

6:30 p.m. Zoom Meeting

Minutes from February 23, 2021 Meeting**Opening:**

The regular meeting of the University of Illinois Extension Unit 3 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on February 23, 2021, on a Zoom meeting platform by President Tyler Wilke.

Present:

Dawn & Gina Scichowski, Addison Gjelsten, Patricia Warren, Simeon Viltz, Linda Sharken, Tyler Wilke, Carolina Schottland, Sarah Zack, Michael Evans, John Wasik, John Jung, and Theresa Meshes. Staff: James Reaves

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Dawn Scichowski. Linda Sharken made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Simeon Viltz, seconded the motion. The minutes were voted on and approved.

County Government Board Update:**McHenry County:**

Theresa Meshes informed us about McHenry County's COVID response. Theresa also informed us about the grants that they have received and how they are allocating them to organizations that serve the county. John Jung talked about the Route 31 COVID vaccination site. He stated that the state will probably cut the county budget by 10% and that they are working on a strategic plan for the county.

Lake County:

John Wasik talked about the Lake County Fairgrounds, Round Lake High School, Stevenson High School, and North Chicago COVID clinics. He also talked about a new composting project that SWALCO, Extension, and other organizations were working on that funded through a USDA grant. He stated that Sandra Prez will be starting a Robotics conversation with partners soon and that the county is looking at ways to regulate marijuana to keep people safe.

4-H Update:

Gina Scichowski stated that her 4-H club made Valentine's Day cards for a Nursing home and that their club is still hosting their meeting's through Zoom and hope to be in person soon. She also stated that the McHenry County 4-H is hosting a Flower sale as a fundraiser and that the county is hosting virtual 4-H events to get more families interested in 4-H. Tyler Wilke also informed us of the 4-H Beef weigh-in that was delayed due to weather has taken place.

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Addison Gjelsten stated that Lake County 4-H members have registered for their projects for the year and are using Zoom meetings. They are hosting food drives and are hoping things open up before the fair.

Director's Update:

James Reaves sent us the February Unit 3 staff minutes via e-mail. He stated that the 4-H Program has worked hard on learning platforms for fair and that this worked well for the majority of the 4-H children. The staff is currently working on both virtual and face-to-face safe fair events. He also stated that Rep. Lauren Underwood will have a 4-H McHenry County 4-H member on her team.

James informed us that Master Gardener's is working on an Arbor Day Tree Sale and that McHenry County is hoping to have Gardenfest face to face this year, He also informed us about a grant to educate gardener's about composting is in the works and that they are working with teachers on gardening in local schools. James talked about the \$75,000 Mchenry Community Foundation grants they are working on to implement more community gardens in McHenry County.

Snap- Ed staff continues to work with pantry managers on how to display healthy food and distributing healthy recipes into the food pantries. We also have a vacancy in Lake County for a Snap- Ed Community Worker.

Staff returned to the office in October 2020 on a hybrid schedule only to return to remote work after a few weeks because of the increase in Covid-cases. As of February 1, 2021, the staff is back in the office on a hybrid schedule following all CDC guidelines.

The state budget for 2019/2020 has been paid but so far nothing has been paid for the 2020/2021 budget yet. Most likely funds will be cut due to COVID but not sure as of yet to the extent of the cuts. In April, Unit 3 will be working on the 2021/2022 Extension budget.

State Council Update:

Carolina Schottland stated that extension is generally in good shape and is trying to cut back. Lake County continues to work on fundraising and is still debating hosting the Annual Gala in October. During the spring/summer they will host a mask design competition for three different age groups. She also talked about the Master Gardener June plant sale. Simeon Viltz asked Gian Scichowski to please share the information on the McHenry County plant sale.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Adjournment

Michael Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Simeon Viltz seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and the meeting was adjourned by President Tyler Wilke. The next general meeting will be at 6:30 pm on April 27th, 2021 as a Zoom meeting instead of an in-person meeting.

Minutes submitted by: Dawn and Gina Scichowski