



University of Illinois Extension Advisory Council Meeting  
Monday, April 24, 2023, 7:00 pm by Zoom

Present: Council members – Garnet Fee, Sue Gallant, Codie Geisz, Deborah Lischwe, Ray Massingill, Daniel Obert, Ann Somers, Chris Urish, Lori Walsh. Staff -- Margaret Larson (Unit 1 Director), Dr. Durriyyah Kemp (Assistant Director for Extension, Region 1).

Chair Chris Urish called the meeting to order. She asked Council members to review the agenda and notes of the previous meeting (November 28, 2022).

Introduction of Dr. Durriyyah Kemp. Margaret welcomed Dr. Kemp who has been in her position for about six months although her tenure with University of Illinois Extension is much longer. Dr. Kemp explained her role saying that supporting her colleagues was most important. She is now becoming familiar with the programs and activities of her region and our unit. She has a strong background in social and emotional learning.

Open Meetings Act. Margaret reminded Council members that this training is required of all Council members. The link was down for a while but is now functioning.

Council Members Check In.

Garnet will attend the Farmers Market's U. IL Extension booth this summer to support community gardeners and acquaint local residents with Extension services.

Sue toured Rockford airport with Winnebago County 4-H members who were very inquisitive, interested and well-behaved. She was proud of them.

Staffing Update.

Margaret is in the process of filling two educator positions and has begun the hiring process for a youth educator and 3 new SNAP educators in Rockford.

Budget.

Unit 1 expenses for year to date (10 months) are where they should be (Fiscal Year 2022-23). Margaret also presented the budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24. She commented that the State is paying as scheduled (state match is 65% representing good support), county financial backing is strong and support from 4-H in each county is good.

Program Updates.

- Master Gardener in-person training is being offered in Stephenson and Winnebago Counties.
- 4-H. While 2022 was not the rebuilding year as anticipated, 2023 shows that participation has returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Next meeting will be county-specific and held in conjunction with the county fairs 4-H Fun Nights.

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Ray moved to adjourn, Garret seconded and the motion to adjourn was passed at 7:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Lischwe

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