

Minutes

University of Illinois Extension Council Meeting – Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Stark Counties Tuesday, April 20, 2021, via Zoom.

Roll Call:

Present: John Bowser, Dave Dyer, Kyle McEwen, Jill Milroy

Others Present: Kristin Bogdonas, Rachel Curry, Jenny Garner, Russell Medley, Tayler Wheatley

Public Comments: Not Applicable.

Previous Minutes:

- The minutes of the last meeting on February 16, 2021 were approved as read on a motion by Dave Dyer and a seconded by John Bowser. Motion carried.

Fiscal Report:

- The Unit 7 Trust and Self-Supporting accounts ending March 31, 2021 that represents fiscal year 2021 were provided in the packet for review. Remote work and two COVID-19 grants totaling to \$10,000 has helped offset programming expense this year.
- In-and-out accounts for Henry/Stark, Mercer, and Rock Island counties were reviewed.

Council Report:

- Jill Milroy reported that YMCA has hosted a Commit to Fit Healthy Kids in partnership with OSF Medical Center. Tayler Wheatley was involved in these efforts that included providing weight loss tips. There was lots of comments posted in their Facebook page requesting the program return this year.
- John Bowser reported on the OSF transportation project that began April 5, 2021. A van was purchased to provide transportation to an 8 mile radius to Saint Luke Medical Center for appointments. SLMC continues to provide COVID-19 vaccinations as well.
- Kyle McEwen reported the Mercer County Better Together retained a pandemic navigator program grant that includes food and pharmacy access to provide resources and programs to people affected by COVID. The grant will allow a staff of two people, provide access to food and the emergency food pantry, long term rentals and help to transport people to get vaccines.

Staff Programming Information:

- The Council reviewed staff reports and have been very impressed with the work of the staff.
- Summer programming is happening-4-H shows will have an assigned time with the judges. Cooking schools are being planned.
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Announcements:

- Unit offices reopened to the public on April 5, 2021 on a limited schedule. The offices will be open full-time after Memorial Day.

- Campus supports the unit hiring a horticulture educator to replace Martha Smith who is retiring. The unit budget can manage the rehire.
- In-person programming is planned for this summer and includes 4-H shows where youth have a designated time to show their general and/or livestock project to the judges but the project will not remain on the fairgrounds as has been our traditional practice. Cooking schools are also planned with partner agencies with a 6-to-1 youth-to-staff ratio in place.
- Horticulture Educator Martha Smith will retiring end of June. She is loved and has over 9,000 followers on social media. Martha's retirement party is June 29th at 3:30-5:00 p.m.-details forthcoming.

New Business:

- With Carol Longley stepping away from her Council position due to the work she is doing on an Extension grant, a Council member is needed to serve on the Extension Board to represent Mercer County. Dave Dyer motioned for Kyle McEwen to take on that role. John Bowser seconded. Motion carried.
- Discussion was held about doing a combination of virtual and in-person meetings for the upcoming 2021-2022 program year for the Extension Unit 7 Advisory Council. Jenny will create a survey for Council members to provide their input.
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Addendum to Minutes:

Russell Medley reviewed the QCHHSEVC presentation at our February meeting; there is not a lot of understanding among the business community about what the health and human sector does for the workforce. The Council provided these further perspectives:

- There is incredible competition right now for workforce. Restaurants are having to close early because they don't have enough staff. We had a workforce shortage already going into the pandemic which has exacerbated the situation.
- The pandemic has also resulted in people retiring early, a shift to electronic-based jobs, staff fearful to get vaccinated, parents at home with their children and not in the workforce, people fearful about going back to work, and unemployment benefits/checks from the government.
- There is also a childcare shortage which has created new challenges.
- Community colleges have grant dollars to train but no people to go through the program even though business need these type of employees. Can nonprofits fill these job needs?
- Remote working is here to stay including remote education. The pandemic helped us understand self-learning online doesn't work for a large group.
- A lot of HHS agencies exist because businesses don't provide that type of service.
- Drug usage is still a problem. OSF received a grant to study drug use. Some municipalities allow temp services but expect 64% to fail because people cannot pass the drug test. This would be a good fact sheet.
- Dave Dyer offered for Matt Machad and Mark Jeffries to come to the next meeting and provide his perspectives on ROE Atkinson Alternatives. Council members were interested to have him attend.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Jill Milroy and seconded by Dave Dyer that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Milroy