

## AGENDA HELENA FARMER'S MARKET April 2<sup>st</sup>, 2020

**Present: Gail, Kate, Kevin, Kris (staff), Mark (staff), Micah, Scott, Terry, Tiff, Tori(staff)**

### I. Covid 19.

Earlier today Scott and Gail tuned in to the Gov's town hall, he said only food vendors will be allowed and we will need to ensure social distancing. Gail: we've been thinking about this, Kate is attending a webinar, we're tracking on what other markets are doing and this is possible. Spacing vendors, for instance, every other space as we will have enough space if only food vendors.... Food being pre-packaged in sellable units to prevent contact, vendors with protective equipment (masks, gloves) we can ask our customers to do the same. We could route the traffic one way going on the west side, reverse on the east side. Etc. Turn crossing guards into traffic managers? Scott: we can't block the fire lanes or put a permanent mark. Gail: chalk a square, for example in front of the check out. Scott: we never put reserved food vendors next to each other anyway. Tiff: I talked to someone in the twin cities.. Farmers markets were open (St Paul) and there were so many customers they could not maintain social distancing. My problem is liability. And I talked to someone who has taken an epidemiology course... the safest way to behave in a pandemic is to maintain isolation. To ask vendors to pre-wrap in bags .. the vendor may be carrying the disease and not know. Ask Terry how he feels about this as a producer? Could we open later? Kate: it is good to isolate, it is the safest. But grocery stores are still open. In a lot of ways an open air market with plenty of spacing is better than a grocery store.

Terry: I did talk to Harlan and we both agreed that starting the market at a later date would be preferable. Tori: my concern as someone who is coming into reg contact with customers is theres no way to protect our vendors or our employees. I am severely immunocompromised Terry: the other thing is we have to be careful about people coming in from outside of lewis and clark county. Scott: how about a four week delay from whenever the gov lifts the social distancing ban? Kris: I agree

Terry: is the farmers market considered essential? Scott: not as a whole, only for food vendors..

Kris: on the federal level we need to consider

Kevin: let's discuss the four week idea. Once the gov. Lifts the ban. Why? Scott: because I need to know where everybody is (?) Tiff: too much of this is arbitrary. Micah: I agree with ... I do think that local food is imperative, let's brainstorm ways to bring local food to our community. Kate: we shouldn't approach it from the perspective of when can we assume business as usual? We should ask the essential vendors and we should take steps to make a social distancing plan. Kevin: we won't have the same environment. .... It should be on the table to cancel for the year. From a PR standpoint as tough as that is.. Gail: I've retrieved some comments from Facebook and two people have asked what's happening. We need to at least put a message on FB and on the website. Letting people know what we're doing. Let's reach out to some of our vendors. CSA boxes, drive through markets, there are creative solutions out there. Kris; Harlan, Terry have you given any thought to how you're going to handle on farm visits? Terry: we have a serve yourself operation Terry: I would not be in favor of cancelling the market altogether. The gov will be giving updates every two weeks and we should follow that pattern.

Kevin: how do we charge then? Micah: week by week rate? Could we split into different groups to create contingency plans for different scenarios? Starting right away with limited vendors

Micah, Terry, Gail, Kevin, Kate

How about an essential vendor meeting in lieu of our spring vendor meeting?

Mica will chair the committee. Kate motion to form the committee, Micah seconds. Tiff: is there time for this?

Kevin: this is for contingencies.

Gail: we should be able to have something before our next meeting ( on the 15t) we already know we cant open until the end of April , probably several weeks after that ... mid may would probably be the earliest

Micah: each board member could contact a certain # of vendors Kevin: I like that idea. Scott: 640 got the email, 900 total vendors in the system. Kevin: we could limit to those who have reserved for the year. Scott: mailchimp is the easiest , and Facebook and the website. What are we wanting to tell them?

Scott: we could do another survey, that's going to take longer. The vendor meeting has been canceled.

Gail: more frequent communication is important. WE anticipate a delay in the start of the market. Kris: please do your data sheet if you haven't yet. Scott: ok meeting canceled, we expect delays, we will be in touch. Get your data sheet in. Kevin: end it on a high note.

II. Vendor Meeting. Life covenant Church.

III. Extension of deadline for down payments?

IV. Bank Deposit of \$3607.00. Have not deposited any vendor checks, yet.

V. Spending other money

F.) New Road Signs – 5 Road closed ahead (\$90.00 Each), 4 Detour (\$90.00 Each), 5 bases (\$202.00 Each). Grand total \$1820.00. G.) \$700.00 to Parks Dept. to get our old spaces back? Terry & High Country Growers +48 Spaces on West Side. Milford Colony & Dixon Melons +48 Spaces on East Side. Versus 51 spaces total on each side of the street. See 2020 Farmers Market Vendor Map. H.) I.) J.)

VI. Other Business

Tiff: scholarships we have received 15 applications , we'll decide by third week of April Kevin: are we responding to every one? Tiff: not before. Kev: lets send out a thank you for your participation. Rude to go unanswered. Mark: the two years that I ran scholarship I sent a postcard to non winners. When the board took position at the deadline that was about presenting at the vendor meeting.

Kevin: what about inviting food share to the market this year as a booth? Kris offers to reach out to Bruce

Day

VII. Next board meeting – April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 6:00 P.M. at Perkins