



Food & Nutrition Coalition Meeting Minutes  
November 13, 2019, 8:30am – 10:00am

Facilitator:	Kam Sudberry, Eleanor Moreno		
Meeting Attendees:	Abigail LaLonde, AJ Fossel, Amy Klinkoski, Brittany Mastenbrook, Cait Melamed, Carola Carassa, Colene Johnson, Deanna Howland, Eleanor Moreno, Erin Skidmore, Gordie Moeller, Janelle Johnson, Janelle Vandergrift, Jennifer Smith, Julie VanGessel, Kam Sudberry, Kelly Hagemeyer, Linda Jones, Mallory Timyan, Mandy Joslyn, Tanya Henry, Nancy Cromley, Aaron Estrada, Julie Brunson, Tracy Booth, Kenny Urena, Brianne Czyzio Robach		
Time Convened:	8:35	Time Adjourned:	9:55

**Introductions**

**Rockford Construction Remarks**

Discussion

Rachel works in the Real Estate Development group at Rockford Construction. She shared an overview of their work in the area. Bridge Street Market is one of their newest projects, they are excited that the food is at price point is accessible to all neighbors. Amplify GR is a nonprofit in the 49507 zip code, Rockford is the lead developer. The goal of the nonprofit is to break the cycle of poverty. They are working on placemaking to bring a food component into the neighborhood. This would be considered successful those currently in the neighborhood are able to benefit from whatever is built.

There are various projects within the larger project in different stages. They are working to incorporate the ideas of members of the community and to keep the community informed throughout the process through a variety of methods. One method is their Facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/amplifygr/> Community members identified several important things they would like included in neighborhood development – groceries, early learning, green space, housing. In general, there was a lot of conversation around the need for ownership (homes, businesses, projects) for community members.

They will be applying for a LIHTC project to develop mixed-income housing. They also will be renovating an abandoned building into a ‘hub’ with a variety of service agencies and nonprofits. There was a question around what affordable housing means to Rockford. This means different things to different people, but a general standard is no more than 30% of take-home pay. The FNC group has had previous conversations around how minimum wage should tie into living wage.

To connect with Rachel, [rscott@rockfordconstruction.com](mailto:rscott@rockfordconstruction.com)

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

**Gratitude Conversation**

Discussion

In table groups, members discussed things they are grateful for and how this connects to the difficulties that their agencies and participants experience.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline



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<b>Introducing the Concept of Shadowing</b>		
Discussion		
<p>In past planning conversations with leadership, Wende wondered about the connections made between agencies. Kam shared that job shadowing often refers to professional development opportunities but can be an important technique for relationship building.</p> <p>She encouraged subcommittee members to seek out an organization or person that inspires you and to take time to connect and learn more. In the next two meetings, seek out someone and try to shadow them or invite someone to shadow you. There will be a report out on connections made during the February meeting.</p>		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
<b>Organizational Updates</b>		
Discussion		
<p><b>Plant Based Cooking Class</b> – next Thursday at 6:30 at the Community Food Club.</p> <p><b>Food Co-Op</b> – Annual Meeting is this Friday at Steepletown at 7pm.</p> <p><b>Feeding America West Michigan</b> – will have a special mobile pantry on Nov 26 at Feeding America West Michigan. Clients must pre-register online</p> <p><b>Hispanic Center</b> – is starting to have walk-in times for survivors of domestic violence. Most dates are on Saturdays.</p> <p><b>Salvation Army</b> – if clients are in need of holiday assistance, let them know they should contact neighborhood pantries now.</p>		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
<b>Adjourn</b>		
<b>Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 11, at Kent County Community Action</b>		