

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, April 18th, 2019
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Tom Snider, Mike Brunn, Steve Binder, Tom Borchart and Karen Powers.

Members Absent: None.

UW-Extension Staff: Chris Viau, Kris Soper, Hannah Phillips, Dana Berger, Mandi Dornfeld, Kimberly Miller, Ashley Rolph.

Others Present: None.

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Tom Snider.

Comments from the Public related to items on the agenda: None.

Approval of Minutes: Borchart moved to approve the 3/21/2019 minutes; seconded by Binder. Motion carried 5 -0.

Program Reports:

FoodWise: Hannah Phillips introduced herself as the Healthy Communities Coordinator for Calumet, Winnebago, Outagamie and Waupaca Counties. She started her new position in January. Phillips' role is to help make changes to environmental and policy systems in the community to help low-income people and families become more active and make healthier food choices. She explained an environmental change would include working with gas stations to have more affordable fruits and vegetables on hand and working with schools to have more fruits and vegetables as a lunch item and making them more appealing to students.

Phillips' shared that FoodWise is currently working with the Master Gardeners on a project with Ascend, creating a community garden to grow fresh produce that will be donated to pantries in the area.

Soper shared that she will be leading cooking classes with the young adults at Ascend. In these cooking classes, the Ascend members will be using the foods that they have grown in the community garden. They will learn how to cut, bake, and cook their own food. This will teach them how to make healthy foods with fresh fruits and vegetables.

Human Development & Relationships: Dornfeld distributed the Grandparents raising Grandchildren brochures. She mentioned that the title of the group is probably going to change soon because it is more of a kinship care. The group has a few aunts and uncles raising kids, along with great-grandparents. Dornfeld invited members of the committee to the Easter party group meeting that was scheduled for that evening.

Dornfeld shared that May 9th will be the New Mental Health Kick-off for Mental Health Awareness month. She is part of the Educational steering committee and was asked to be their keynote speaker for the conference at Miron Construction in Neenah. Dornfeld announced that the HCE day of learning was April 17th. This was the first time they had a day of learning, with four mini sessions all in one day. A few sessions included Randy Domer, who was here to talk about history and Dornfeld talked about suicide awareness. Dornfeld shared that Friday, April 26th is the Madison Birth to 5 Prenatal Summit. It will be held at the J.P. Coughlin Center. 55 local leaders from UW Madison will be here to answer questions about childhood in the area.

Community Gardens: Miller reported that she and Viau attended the county board meeting on Tuesday, and the request to buy the Netzer property was approved. The next step is to determine what needs to be done to prepare the land for a community garden site and how much it will cost. Binder suggested talking to Rob Way with the Parks Department to find out which portion of the land they will be offering, then figure out the estimated costs.

Committee Chair Report: No report from Snider. Berger talked about the 4-H scholarships and key awards recipients, which is a very prestigious award that 4-H members can receive. Key awards will be celebrated at County fair at a banquet.

UW-Extension – Administration:

Staff Updates/Area Updates: Viau went over some updates. We are close to putting the wraps on the Financial educator position. About to hire someone. Will work on the Rent smart and financial education increase in the community.

Department Activities: Working with state for the staff reviews. High performing staff.

State Activities: Working on the 2020 budget- working with the county for the 2020 budget.

Comments by Extension Staff:

Comments by Committee Members: Borchart talked about a pilot project. We got a lot of new people coming in, noticed some safety hazards. Would like to propose a short safety share in the beginning on the meeting.

Next Meeting: Next regular committee meeting will be held Thursday, May 16th, 2019.

Adjourned: Powers moved to adjourn; seconded by Binder Motion carried 5-0, 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ashley Rolph