

Durango Farmers Market

Fall Membership Meeting

October 24, 2017- La Plata County Fairgrounds

Minutes

I. **Called to order** by President, Tyler Hoyt, at 7:05 pm. 13 vendors present.

II. Max Fields motioned to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the last membership meeting, and Judy Rohwer seconded the motion. All approved. Max then motioned to approve those minutes, and Judy seconded. **The minutes of the 2017 Spring Membership meeting were approved as submitted.**

III. Reports

Tyler Hoyt, President, reported that we had a harmonious season, and thanked the vendors and the manager. He gave a brief overview of what to expect in the whole meeting. He then reminded vendors of their need to always be in compliance of the requirements of the health department, and that it is up to each individual vendor to do so.

Max Fields, Treasurer, reported on the financial situation of the market. He detailed any discrepancies in our financial reports between budgeted and actual amounts, and summarized that our finances are in good order. There was discussion of the worth of the cost to take both EBT and Credit Cards at the market booth, and the membership concurred that the increased business that we see as a whole is very much worth the cost to have the machines and run the transactions for both systems.

Cody Reinheimer, Market Manager, reported that we had a great year. He saw a large increase in the use of the Double-Up Food Bucks, and he received copious positive feedback about having the Transit Center restrooms open for our vendors and customers. He reported that running the Sponsorship Program this season was extra work, and he expressed worry for the future of the sponsorships (and thus the funding for the restrooms) because at least one of our major sponsors is not renewing their support. He identifies that as the largest challenge currently facing the DFM.

He has resigned, and will be in his position as manager until 3/1/18, and offered his support and coaching beyond that, should we require it. He volunteered to help our new manager at the first market of the 2018 season, as well. The membership expressed gratitude for his work over the past 4 years as market manager.

Cody spoke about the San Juan Basin Public Health inspector team's visit to the market this summer, and detailed the resulting communications with them about current regulation and possible future changes. He reiterated that it is up to each vendor to be in compliance with their requirements under the current health department regulations. He emphasized that the vendors who grow leafy greens pay particular attention. He reminded that proper signage reminding customers to wash their produce is also important.

The incubator program was not as well utilized as it has been in the past, but Cody re-

ported that it is a very valuable program and recommended it be maintained. The Holiday Markets are coming up and Cody reminded the membership of the deadline to secure booth space - 10/28 deadline for the Thanksgiving Market on 11/18, and 11/10 deadline for the Holiday Market on 12/9.

IV. New Business

Transit Center Restrooms Usage/ Sponsorship Program: Our current sponsors are not all renewing their support for next season. The City is still willing to allow us to pay for the Transit Center to be open during the market on Saturdays, and the cost will be the same as it was this season. The board offered multiple solutions to pursue in order to fund the use of the Transit Center. Everyone agreed that it is important to have those restrooms available. The membership's consensus was that we should first attempt to secure sponsorship to continue to cover the cost, and if that is not possible we could explore booth fee increases or working it into the DFM's budget. Dan James offered to help find sponsors when the board is ready. He also recommended that we find ways to let the City of Durango see what an economic and cultural asset the DFM is by collecting some data about visitation and spending, and then sharing it. Tim Wheeler reminded the membership that the sponsorship program's aim is not only to pay for the restrooms, but also to potentially maintain our current assets and acquire new ones as necessary (namely the trailer, benches, and sound equipment).

New Market Manager: The Board of Directors is in the process of hiring a new Market Manager, and Cody has received a large volume of resumes already. The position is open until 11/18, at which point the Board will meet and make plans to interview prospective candidates.

Election of new board members: Both Tim Wheeler's and Kay James' terms on the Board are up, and we took nominations for new board members

Max Fields nominated Scott Koch of Four Corners Mushrooms and Panacea

Emily Jensen nominated Pauline Pao of Offbeat Family Farm

Judy Rohwer nominated Tyler VanGemert of Mountain Medicine

Cody provided paper ballots, Emily Jensen, acting Secretary, counted them and Max Fields verified the count. **Pauline Pao and Tyler VanGemert** were elected, to serve for two years, beginning immediately, alongside current members Tyler Hoyt, Max Fields, and Emily Jensen.

V. Other Announcements - Cody invited the membership to an end-of-season party at BREW after the last regular market of the season (10/28).

VI. Judy Rohwer motioned to adjourn, Katrina Blair seconded the motion. **Tyler Hoyt adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Jensen
Vice-President, acting Secretary