

FCA General Meeting Minutes – Feb 14, 2024

Present: Aly Robinson, Jessica Bee, Chair Lisa McOmber, Treasurer Dawna Drum (also acting as Secretary for this meeting), Board Member Carl McDaniel

Lisa called the meeting to order at 5:11 after the group attempted to get the Zoom working for a hybrid meeting.

Minutes of the January meeting were approved

No Secretary's report

Treasurer's Report – 2 reimbursements to process, 1 for eggs for the Spring Festival and 1 for PO Box renewal

Funding Request Discussion:

The Food Bank requested \$72,000:

\$30,000 for pre-season contracts with local farmers

\$10,000 for East County Food Landscape Assessment

\$25,000 for Supplemental Food Purchasing: Primarily Dairy & Proteins

\$3,000 for Mileage Reimbursement for delivery drivers

\$4,000 for Winter & Spring Pantry Program

Carl did research with other food banks and this ask is quite high in comparison. Also many of the farmers are not in the UGA as required by our funding. Aly responded yes, but ours will provide better quality produce while at the same time helping our local food system, and they believe we should spend our dollars here. Jessica concurred and pointed out that if a dollar is spent here with our farmers, it stays here, but if it's spent with Charlie's Produce, it leaves the area. Produce also retains more of its nutritional value if is consumed more quickly after picking.

Aly asked for clarification on the money spent for the Communication Hub which isn't just the UGA. How does FCA measure that? Carl replied that it is less about being exclusively in the UGA and more that this ask is very costly. Aly replied that some prices are higher, as Carl's research showed, but some are less, and this is organic and better quality because it comes immediately from the farms.

Dawna asked if the request could be broken up since it was submitted with separate estimates for each piece. The group liked this idea and voted separately on the pieces, including an amended ask for the produce that would not include the contracts with farmers. The board decided on the following:

\$30,000 for produce purchases, however the Food Bank chooses

~~\$10,000 for East County Food Landscape Assessment~~ Not approved

\$25,000 for Supplemental Food Purchasing: Primarily Dairy & Proteins

\$3,000 for Mileage Reimbursement for delivery drivers

\$4,000 for Winter & Spring Pantry Program

\$62,000 approved

Aly will email so we can set up the transfer

Project Updates:

Parks – the fence is almost done, 3 trees are coming, John McOmber will make benches from them. They are looking into play equipment. The entire park will be accessible.

Communication Hub – They are waiting for finalization, had hoped to be done already. Contributors should be getting their signon information very soon.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:27