B.E.S.T. Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2014

1. Call to Order 8:31 a.m.

Judy Armstrong will chair the meeting in Kathy Myers absence.

2. Introductions

3. Reading and Approval of the Minutes – Jeanne Kearby -Tabled

4. Treasurer’s Report – Pete Molidor -Tabled

5. Speaker – Eric Carlberg, Prairie Farm Corps. Today’s youth will build the sustainable food systems of tomorrow. The Prairie Farm Corps helps lay the groundwork for a more resilient local food system by immersing youth in sustainable agriculture, providing mentoring, and reflecting on the collaboration between land and living systems. The Prairie Farm Corps ([featured on NBC 5 Chicago](http://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/Teens_Spend_Summer_Working_On_The_Farm_Chicago-125612443.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank%22%20%5Co%20%22Prairie%20Farm%20Corps%20featured%20on%20NBC%20Chicago)) brings this into the daily work of a diverse group of youth, some from underserved communities, by providing an experiential paid work experience on the Prairie Crossing Farm. Participants gain job skills applicable to any career, capacity to grow and cook fresh vegetables, and a hands-on introduction to sustainable agriculture. [http://libertyprairie.org/2013/12/17/prairie-farm-corps-2/](http://libertyprairie.org/2013/12/17/prairie-farm-corps-2/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank). Presentation explained the program and a PowerPoint presentation showed different aspects of the program. Questions were answered from the members present. Many expressed how wonderful the program was for our youth.

6. Reports of Standing Committees

a. By-Laws – Jim DiDonato – Presentations on changes will come before the Executive Committee then to the General membership.

b. Membership – Wendy Warden, Chair – She are going through memberships that may have come in during her absence and updating membership records. Membership packets were making steady progress towards completion..

c. Public Awareness – Georgeann Duberstein, Chair – Has continued to send information to the press about meetings.

d. Special Projects – Community Empowerment Grants – Shirley Christian, Chair - There were two new grant applications and the committee would get together to review.

7. Reports of Special Committees

a. Kindergarten Readiness Committee – Judy Armstrong, Lead - Mentioned the May 1st meeting for Kindergarten Readiness. As a result of the incredible success of the Feb 11 Second Cup event, the committee was having a lot of conversations with others that were seeing the importance of preschool education. They were looking at hosting a third event. Encouraged other members that would like to get involved to let her know.

b. Chili Supper – Kathy Myers, Lead – Absent, No Report

9. Next Meeting – May 8, 2014

10. Adjournment was at 9:54