

22 May 2024

Indianapolis Liberation Center

Chair: Dani Abdullah & Bryce Stockslager

Notes: Mari

Time: Bridget

Present: Art, Sarah H, Kristi S, Leo, Christi S, Lan, Noah L, Sierra, Mandy W, Natalie D, Bryce, Tina A, Fone, Porsche (online), Dani, Harrison J, Devin N, Ceci G, Anna M, Yolar, Bridget O, Ariez C

1. Names and introductions
 - a. Organizations: Growing in the Hood, Octavia Visionary Campus and Mynant farms, Leo's alkaline water and cooking classes, Central IN DSA, Flanner Farms, Party for Socialism and Liberation, Indianapolis Liberation Center, Social Workers, University Students, Indy Food Politics, Urban Indy, May's Page Garden, DIPIN, Community Members, Soul Food Project, Growers Co-op, Grocery Stores Contractor, Teachers,, AmericaCore Members.
 - b. Why: Access to healthy food, connection to small farms and policy, affects our mental health and physical health, food as a tool to build community, human role in the natural environment, making growing accessible to people, food apartheid, community can get the job done, the inequality of food access, create the systems we need, using the math to tell the story and create change, asset-based community development,
2. The Struggle So Far and Orientation to the Center – Sierra Nuckols and Bryce Stockslager
 - a. Sierra: After years of passion and activism we have created the coalition despite the gatekeeping. We are changing the narrative and are creating a food system that is inclusive and access to healthy affordable food. We will be proactive, accountable and powerful.
 - b. Bryce: Thanks for making the commitment to come out today and welcome the liberation center. The Liberation Center is fostering a sense of collectively, 2 organizations who are part of the Center are Hope Packages and FOCUS Initiatives. The Liberation Center would be a good space to hold the coalition. After seeing the stalling of the creation of the food justice coalition and meanwhile applying for grants in the coalition's name. How will the coalition be different?
3. Interim Executive Committee
 - a. Current EC has a 90-day probationary period, and re-election will occur after 90 days. Sierra
 - b. After discussion, members agreed to elections and application process in 90 days.
 - c. Authority to prioritize tasks and make decisions as needed in between regular coalition meetings (which serve as the highest decision-making body).
 - d. Current Positions:
 - i. President – Sierra

- ii. Vice President – Harrison
 - iii. Treasurer – Jasmine
 - iv. General Secretary – Mari-Luna
 - e. Designated Liaison – Proposed candidate from president with role as communicator between coalition, the city, and IndyFAC, should be someone trusted who has experience with coalition building.
 - f. Discussion
 - i. Began with background of CFAC and current elections.
 - ii. Responses:
 - 1. Sierra: This came out after one of the focus groups that was led by engaging solutions hired by Julie Burns and after having the same meetings it felt like another attempt to gatekeeper. So, this happened organically and came together and said let's establish this.
 - 2. Harrison: I went in thinking they wanted us to start the coalition and then seeing that wasn't the meeting focus the community took our power back and did it. I also wanted to help out and signed up as VP.
 - 3. Jasmine: I was the treasure and something needed to be done and it was done, and I also wanted to say I do not oppose the 60 days idea.
 - 4. Motion to add designated liaison discussion to the next meeting passes without dissent.
4. Proposal of External Advisory Committee
- i. Advisory committee appointed by acting president- stakeholders who can help advise structure, organization, and membership requirements of coalition. Won't be part of the executive board and who is knowledgeable of the food system and would advise the executive team.
 - ii. Should include individuals who have significant experience with coalition work and/or food system work.
 - iii. Will not serve as acting members on the coalition, but will provide support and guidance to all members and committees.
 - iv. After discussion: Motion to vote for the creation of the advisory committee with the task of the executive team creating a list of names we will vote on in the next meeting: No one opposed.
5. Proposal of Membership Committee – Sierra
- a. Committee of active members of the coalition that serves to vet new members, proposes that 5-7 of the 13 founding members form an interim membership committee to help vet and process member applications, with the help and guidance of the advisory committee.
 - i. Determines the application process for new members.
 - v. Initial Membership Term: Set an initial term, 90 days, for founding members, during which they serve as interim members.
 - vi. Reapplication and Reelection:

1. Founding members reapply for membership along with new applicants.
 2. Applications are reviewed by the Membership Committee.
 3. All members, including founding members, are subject to the same criteria and evaluation process.
 - vii. General Election: After 90 days, conduct a general election where all current and new members vote on the reapplications.
 - viii. Membership committees should come up with a mechanism for community feedback (e.g., open community meetings to ensure the coalition is listening to and integrating feedback from community members as needed).
 - ix. 21 people are needed
 - b. Discussion
 - i. Includes approval of interim membership committee, limit of members, difference between voting and non-voting members, criteria for membership, composition, membership application, etc.
 - ii. After two proposals, a third proposal to move the vote to another meeting passed by a 12-10 vote.
6. Basic Expectations/Requirements for Coalition Members – Sierra
- a. Brainstorming basic expectations up for discussion and entry into by-laws (e.g., attend 80% of meetings)
 - a. Included discussion of creating an application process and sending it to all interested in being a member and requirements for voting members..
 - i. Motion to send volunteers the ideas of membership and then bring it up for next meeting:
 - ii. Unanimous: Ceci and Christine
7. Purpose and Mission Statement working group – Sierra
- a. Need to work on a mission statement between now and the next meeting
 - i. 2-3 volunteers came forward.
8. Next Steps – Secretary
- a. Each attendee should examine draft bylaws and other organizing documents before the next meeting.
 - b. Meeting next Tuesday from 6:00-7:30 PM
 - i. Motion to set this meeting date and time: no one opposed, motion passed
 - ii. Motion to discuss at a later time if we are making these meetings public? Motion passed.
 - iii. Sierra: Based on your experience, when is this a good time to open it up to the public?
 - iv. Porscha: Figure out bylaws, and the structure with this group and then open it up to the public. You don't want it to be too soon.
 - v. Christie: I think there needs to be more people but I think that is why we have to have those 90 days to have a structure in place.

- vi. Motion to first get structure in place like bylaws and then have this discussion again once we are organized in that capacity to open it up to the public: no one opposed, motion passed
- c. Focus group meeting Thursday, May 23 at the boys and girls club next to the finish line on the far east side from 5:30-7:00 pm.
 - i. Motion to send a group of representatives from the interim leadership team and promote the meeting next Tuesday at the meeting.
 - ii. Motion passed.