

Larimer County Extension Advisory Committee Minutes March 4, 2020

Members present: Pam Harrold, Sue Ballou, Irene Romsa, Regan Thomas, Maia Potts, Matt Halloran, Pilar Jorgensen, Susan Bonsall, Alison O'Connor, John Kefalas, Amber Webb, Karen Crumbaker, Laura Walker, Alyssa Stephenson (IRISS), Fred McClanahan, Jr., Kerri Rollins, Kathy Mason.

The meeting was called to order at 8:05am.

The minutes of the January 8, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously and motion to accept them was made by Sue Ballou and seconded by Pilar Jorgensen.

Introductions

Amber Webb was introduced as the new Family & Consumer Science Extension Agent in Larimer County. She started work on March 2.

Laura Walker was also introduced. She is the new director of Larimer County Human & Economic Health Division. Prior to this appointment, Laura was the Director of the Human Services Department.

Agent Report

Karen Crumbaker gave a report on her programming in Larimer County.
(see power point presentation)

Report on Programs

Ag & Natural Resources

- Native Plant Master – 3 courses, 3 special classes in Larimer County. Informal outdoor information for the public.
- Radon Education – Grant for \$1,600 for radon kits and presentations
- Small Acreage Management (SAM) – site visits
- Purchasing Rural Properties in Colorado – updated a 13-page booklet
- Wildfire preparedness – creating a defensible space.
- Ag Advisory Board – suicide / opioid epidemic
- Various fairs and festivals
- Building Farmers – an 8-week course to help folks create a business plan. This program has had 82 participants since 2011.
- People who are moving into rural Larimer County and needing guidance.
- Concerns about getting information to citizens who only speak Spanish

Other Extension programming updates are included in the March 4 meeting agenda.

Market Days!

- Larimer County Office on Aging made a \$5,000 contribution to Market Days!
- Other agencies distribute vouchers to individuals who they work with.

- Vouchers are given to qualifying individuals who may not usually attend or purchase produce at the Farmers' Market. It also helps reduce social isolation.

Larimer County Showcase

- In the future, have name tags for guests.
- Do not indicate a lunch time or time for discussion. Just that the program begins at 11:30am.
- Have presentation graphics more readable. No white letters on graphics.
- All presenters must use a microphone so people in the back can hear.
- Do not have as much schwag (handouts and gifts)
- Include new information
- Have guest complete a survey
- Be sure publicity get out about Extension's presentations, workshops and program throughout the county.
- "What is trying to be solved from the effort that is being put forth?"

Community Needs Assessment data review – presentation by Allison Cantwell, CSU Institute for Research in Social Sciences (IRISS)

- What types of question are asked and what are the overall priorities?
- Where do people go for information?
- Sample demographics
 - 1057 responses met the criteria.
 - More women than men responded
 - 47% had never used Extension resources
- Caveats and Notes
 - Extension usage varies across demographics
 - Information included in power point
 - Are youth all under 18 or what is the age range?
- Other
 - What do we do with the data?
 - What principals do we need to consider if items fit in Extension's niche?
 - Who else is doing this work already to avoid duplication?
 - "All Extension offices in Colorado will be expected to conduct a community assessment"
--- Blake Naughton
 - How do local drivers assist and support these programs?
 - State partners appreciate local control.
 - How is Extension able to help and get involved?
 - Involving State Specialists with some responsibility to Extension.
 - How we want to handle all the data collected.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 6, 2020, 8am – 10am.

Submitted by Fred McClanahan, Jr.