

Sitka Farmers Market  
July 11, 2008 - Noon-1:00pm  
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Amelia Mosher; Kerry MacLane, Doug Osborne, Dave Nuetzel, Anne Harvey, Linda Wilson

Amelia Mosher announced that she will be stepping down as the unofficial facilitator of the Sitka Farmers Market meetings. Jeanette Chavez was nominated to take over as the Farmer Market and Greenhouse project committees are planning to merge. Ms. Chavez was not present to accept the nomination and we await her response.

A question was raised regarding possible restrictions on the \$5,000 matching grant from the Alaska Department of Commerce. The \$5,000 is the balance remaining for current fiscal year funds that are dedicated to promoting farmers markets/local agricultural projects in Alaska. It needs to be confirmed if these funds are for advertising and promotion only or if they could be used for other needs such as paying for the permits required to sell fish at the market.

The location of the Sitka Farmers Market was discussed and it was agreed that the ANB hall is likely the best venue if rent for the hall and kitchen can be negotiated to meet our budget.

It was advised that before promoting the sale of any locally gathered products (berries, plants, etc...) a representative of the Farmers Market group meet with the group responsible for Native subsistence management to make sure there will be no conflict between their needs and the activities of the Farmers Market.

There may be some event tents owned by Sheldon Jackson College that could be used for an outdoor Farmers Market.

The survey is ready for dissemination and needs to be posted on a website. The set up fee for the program used to run the survey on-line is \$20.00.

Ludvig's Bistro has helped non-profit groups by holding a fundraising evening event where 10% of the proceeds from that night's business going to the non-profit. Someone will contact Ludvig's to find out if they would do this again for the Farmers Market.

The group discussed the pros and cons of holding the Farmers Market every Saturday or alternate Saturdays. The main concern about holding the Market every Saturday is the availability of adequate produce and fish to sell. The ALFA representative expressed a preference for every other Saturday. Another concern was the competition with Chelan Produce on some Saturdays. It was agreed that ideally the Farmers Market will be held every Saturday, however this may not be possible this year. A decision will be made at the next meeting and a date for the first Market will be set at that time.

Mr. Osborne will talk to the people who run the ANB Hall and find out the cost to rent the hall and kitchen.

Mr. MacLane will contact the owner of the food cart that will be used to sell the fish and negotiate terms for its use.

Ms. Wilson will begin compiling a list of potential vendors.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 18, 2008 at noon in the conference room at SEDA – 329 Harbor Drive, Suite 212. Call Linda at 747-2660 for directions.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00pm.