

Leroy James Farmers Market Annual Vendor Meeting Agenda

The Leroy James Farmers Market Annual Vendor Meeting will be held at 6:00pm on Monday, March 14, 2022. NOTE: This meeting will be conducted in person at the Pitt County Ag Center Auditorium, 403 Government Circle, Greenville, NC.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Meeting notes of March 9, 2021 (available on line or at meeting)
3. Public Comment

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

4. Committee to review/propose amendments to Leroy James Farmers Market Constitution and By-Laws
5. Policy Committee Membership, Vacancies, and Applications

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6. Facility Improvements 2021 - 2022 and proposed 2022-23
7. 2022 Dates of Operation for Market
8. Policy Committee Meeting Dates for 2022
9. SNAP and Double Bucks Programs
10. Civil Rights and Customer Service
11. Other Business
12. Adjourn

Resource materials will be included in the email notification and can be found online here: <https://www.pittcountync.gov/599/Farmers-Market> . Limited copies will be available at the farmers market office and at the meeting.

Meeting Notes:

Voting Members Attending: Andy McLawhorn; Donald Buck for Bobby Yates; Jean Spong; Philip Guy; Juanna Haddock; Mary and Sam Hardy; Cassandra Smith; Deborah Howard; Wayne Heiser/Jean Sokolofski; James W. Futrell; John and Eileen Romeo; Wendy Stallings; Patty Roseman; Zadrian Crandall (joined after voting for policy committee recommendations)

Non-Voting vendors attending: Richard Dart; Cynthia Graham; Jennifer Hartnell; Crystal Hughes

Staff attending: Leigh Guth; James Rhodes

Voting members not in attendance: Bill Burke; Anslie Guion; Doug Johnson; Mary Betty Kearney; Pat and Elvis Townsend; Olivia Branch; Calvin Butcher; Bobby Grissom; Herb McGrail; Angelica Medina; Landis Wilson; Terry Snowden; Lori and Ken Cortright

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Andy McLawhorn, Policy Committee Chair, opened the meeting at 6:10pm. He explained the role of the Policy Committee and encouraged vendors to be in communication with Policy Committee members. After roll call, determined 2 vendors shy of quorum.

2. Meeting notes of March 9, 2021 (available on line or at meeting)

3. Public Comment – signed in to speak prior to meeting

Mary Hardy: Bathroom and space by office are crowded with other items. Picnic table should not be in front of bathrooms.

McLawhorn response – Thank you for your input. During COVID, vendor booth markings were not used but booths were spaced out more to encourage social distancing for safety. Need to move back to pre-covid spacing and follow guidelines staying within white lines and emptying booth of all product. Management will address.

Deborah Howard: We need guidelines on how, when, where and why management moves vendors. What are the criteria? Requests that manager have training on diversity and how to implement guidelines fairly and consistently.

McLawhorn response – Thank you for your input. We will review and train the manager.

Jean Sokolofski: No flow at market with customers not going to end of building.

Suggests dispersing farmers throughout the market. Cannot always do it the way it has

been done. Locating vendors who sell the same product together is unfair competition. Losing vendors in past 4 years – some for personal reasons and some by way treated at the market. Need more than bag give away and Halloween/Easter events.

McLawhorn response – Thank you for your input. We will consider.

Wayne Heiser: Need to be consistent with advisory or policy committee name.

Wanted to serve on board 4 years ago but was not told how to apply through County website. Nepotism is a problem – a relative of management should not be able to serve on the Policy Committee. His booth was moved due to COVID. Now the fire door is blocked. Rules are not consistently enforced. Code says there needs to be a lighted sign and fire extinguished area painted on floor. Empty booths were because of food vendors leaving items to spoil. Shouldn't apply to crafts.

James Rhodes response – Safety issues have been addressed by the Greenville Fire Marshal this week. The only issue was that hardware on the fire door between building was on backwards. There were no other issues.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

4. Committee to review/propose amendments to Leroy James Farmers Market

Constitution and By-Laws

Vendors wanting to change the Constitution or Bylaws should submit suggested changes in writing to the Policy Committee. Policy Committee will review and all changes must be approved by the County Commissioners.

5. Policy Committee Membership, Vacancies, and Applications

James Rhodes advises that since this vote is a recommendation to Commissioners it can be done without a quorum. Vendor members who have been vendors before March 14, 2021, can vote using the ballot provided. First vote for farmer vendor and second ballot for at large. Juana Haddock chosen for farmer slot and Patty Roseman for the at large.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6. Facility Improvements 2021 - 2022 and proposed 2022-23

Leigh Guth reported over \$35,000 was spent in FY 20-21 over our \$51,000 operating budget on improvements including: parking lot, fencing, landscaping and signage, replacement of sky lights in front building, heater repairs. Currently working on an extensive drainage project. Capital improvement funds have been requested for FY 22-23 for additional repairs.

7. 2022 Dates of Operation for Market –

Veterans Day: Friday Nov 11 – open regular hours

Thanksgiving: Wednesday Nov 23 – open 8 to 12

Thursday, Friday and Saturday CLOSED

Christmas: Friday December 23 – open 8 to 12

Saturday December 24 – closed

New Years Friday, December 30 – CLOSED

Saturday, December 31 – open 8 to 12

8. 2022 Policy Committee Meetings -

6pm Tuesdays : April 12

July 12

October 11 at 6pm

9. SNAP and Double Bucks Programs

Leigh Guth reported \$543 in SNAP tokens sold and \$543 given in double bucks. She explained the program and rules.

10. Civil Rights and Customer Service

Leigh Guth reported: NC State and other government entities follow the law regarding discrimination and civil rights. At NC State – we recognize the following groups as protected classes: age, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national

origin, race, religion, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation veteran status. What we know is that our actions, rules and policies can have discriminating impacts, and that discrimination can be intentional or unintentional. We all have bias. -- basketball tournament example given. All staff and vendors to consider their actions and the impact they have.

11. Other Business

Wendy Stallings – Be consistent with Advisory or Policy committee name.

Bobby Buck – concerned about gas prices

Jennifer Hartnel – Request that policy committee reach out to new vendors to make them welcome and answer questions.

Patty Roseman – Policy Committee should be seated at the front during this meeting.

Wayne Heiser – Ruts that are made during driveway dragging can make people fall.

12. Adjourn – 6:55pm