

NORTHEAST IOWA FUNDERS NETWORK

For sustainable communities



Meeting Notes for April 2, 2009 in Monona

Attendance: Matt Erickson (Allamakee), Roger Halvorson (Clayton), Scott Michelson (NEIFFI Leadership Team), Brenda Ranum (NEIFFI co-convener), Mindy Gress (CFNEI), Tom Ridout (Winn.), Rick Edwards (NEIFFI Leadership Team), Nancy Van Milligen, (CFGD), Ann Mansfield (NEIFFI Co-Convener), M.J Smith, (CFGD/Affiliates).

Absent: Peggy Kittleson of Fayette County, Dick Wagner of Howard County
Peggy and Dick both sent word they would be unable to attend.

FUNDING PARTNERS

Community Foundation
Of Greater Dubuque

Allamakee County
Community Foundation

Clayton County
Foundation for the Future

Community Foundation
Of Northeast Iowa

Fayette County
Community Foundation

Howard County
Community Foundation

Winneshiek County
Community Foundation

PROJECT MEMBERS

Northeast Iowa
Food and Fitness Initiative

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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1. The members introduced themselves and described their affiliations with the foundations and/or the NEIFFI

2. Ann and Brenda provided a brief history of the initiative to date.

3. Nancy led a discussion about the Funders Network name
Sustainability is one term that appealed to the group. The network can be broad at the outset, but all agreed to focus on the Northeast Iowa Food and Fitness Initiative as a singular initial project and focus. Consensus was reached around the name:
NEI Funders Network for Sustainable Communities

All participants were urged to reflect on the need and mission for the group, evaluating personal, community, and regional benefits for organizing a funders network. There was consensus around the potential benefits of organizing..

4. Membership
Will be limited to true funders and grant-makers at the outset as well as project leaders. Guests and other participants will be invited for selected discussions and education. Other funders may include bankers, donors, corporations, and gaming grant-makers.

5. Mission
The group adopted the Northeast Iowa Food and Fitness Initiative as its singular first project and seeks to:

- Learn more about the FFI initiative at the regional and community level
- Understand how each funders goals fit with the initiative
- Collaborate to support regional policy-focused approaches to meeting initiative goals
- Collaborate to leverage regional and national funding opportunities
- Support grant-making which reflects and leverages the work of the initiative

6. What is expected of funders and members?

The role of community foundation representatives will be to become educated about projects and funding opportunities and then officially communicate the network's business back to the county boards as well as bring the county board's needs to the network. If the appointed rep cannot attend, they should appoint a substitute. Community members with a passion for the network's project and/or mission would be eligible for membership as long as they reported back to the county boards. The appointments would be left up to the individual count boards.

7. Communication Strategies/Meetings

The Funders Network will be convened and supported by the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque. The Network will communicate by telephone conference call quarterly with face-to-face meetings scheduled as needed or at important junctures in the initiative.

Website Links: www.dbqfoundation.org (Look for NEIFN communications to be posted under the AFFILIATES TAB)

8. Operating Budget

A Request for Activities of the network has been sent to NEIFFI. The request includes mileage stipends for participants as well as support for communications, printing and an annual workshop.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be a phone conference at 9 am Thursday, June 4.

The agenda will include a report on the status of the NEIFFI Request for Activities in the five counties. The network will learn about those activities which reflect a regional approach.

HOMEWORK: The NEIFFI Grant Study (06-09) as well as a white paper, MOVING IDEAS and MONEY, have been provided to all participants.

Meeting notes by MJ Smith