

Boone, DeKalb & Ogle 4-H Expansion and Review

Minutes from November 30, 2022

Those in attendance were as follows: Melissa Irwin, Dakota Schober, Gina DelRose, Jodi Baumgartner, Chelsea Eden, Jane Zeien, Noel Escamilla, Nicole Groezinger, Kathy Dombek, Brooke Glander, Joe Dombek, Desiree Corral, Bode Martin, Jeannette Mingus, Lillian Hetland, Ellie Davis, Amy Hildebrandt, and Johnna Jennings.

Johnna welcomed the members to the meeting and asked them to introduce themselves. She later explained what the purpose of the committee was and how these members are the eyes and ears to help our staff as we work to grow our 4-H program in each of our three counties. She shared that **our goal is not to burden you with meetings, but to develop a relationship with you where you can assist us in our goal to grow and expand our reach with today's youth and potential volunteers.** If at any time a member of this committee has something they have questions on or would like to share they should feel free to contact a 4-H staff member.

Regarding meetings this group will only meet three times a year. There is this meeting in November, our next meeting on May 23 via Zoom, and a September 26 meeting that will be in person and with other subcommittees of the Extension Council. It was explained that the 4-H Expansion and Review Committee is technically a sub-committee of the Extension Council, and they meet once a year. This next year this meeting will be held on September 26 with the location to be determined.

Kathy Dombek's Report

- **Opportunity House for Special needs Adults**
 - New club starting this December
 - 13 members and 2 leaders from Opportunity House staff
- **DeKalb Community School District 428**
 - Looking to incorporate Rockets to the Rescue curriculum into all 5th grade classes (working to train 5th grade teachers during district PLC meetings)
 - Developing an afterschool program 2 days per week where 4-H will be incorporated into the program one day a week: 4-H leaders will come from faculty
- **HUB Program, Rochelle School District**
 - Working with HUB Director to incorporate 4-H program
 - Interest in starting an afterschool 4-H club spring semester for the middle school youth
 - Interested in having 4-H staff facilitate several programs for the younger youth throughout spring semester
- **OSCAR Program, Sycamore School District**

- Working with OSCAR Director to incorporate several afterschool programs during spring semester
- **Teen Reach, DeKalb Elementary**
 - Interest in starting an afterschool 4-H program
 - Nicole & I have met with staff and covered process (I continue to follow up with staff)
 - Facilitated 4-H activities during the summer and for the afterschool program
- **Developed a Unit 2 Juntos Family Experience Program, Housed at NIU Latino Resource Center**
 - Presentations on Undocumented Students, Parent University (Parents as Leaders), Career/Vocational and Dual Credit opportunities. Presentations in Spanish
 - **A big Thank you to Noe** from our committee who assisted with the program
 - Spring Semester program geared toward high school students & their parents
 - will include college information, including a campus tour
- **Work with the Juntos Club in Boone County**
 - Looking for a leader(s)
 - Have been very active in recruitment of new members (Booths at Washington Academy Programs & community activities)

Amy asked about how the clubs in the schools will work and if they are will be project or STEM based. Kathy indicated that they will be project based and all youth will take

Melissa Irwin – Boone 4-H

- Community Service Tree planting
- Servers at Grange dinner
- Participated in Truck or Treat – 1,300 string cheeses and fidget spinners were given out
- Fall Food Drive
- Cards for Military Mail
- Hometown Christmas – 103 trees and families will
- Cooking School at Belvidere
- Day long program at YMCA
- Conducted a weeklong farm animal program at the Park District
- Community Garden
- Starting a 4-H Foundation in Boone County
- Starting a five-week Juntos program for students and families at Belvidere South Middle School

- Cloverbuds has grown from two clubs to five clubs
- In the spring Melissa and Johnna will be doing a four-week Science program at the Park District
- Super Saturday will be coming in February.
- A six-week art SPIN club will be starting at Washington School that will be taught by a 4-H family.

Jodi Baumgartner – Ogle 4-H

- 4-H Camp – Day Camp last year – Overnight for 2023
- Sewing SPIN Club – carryover from last year with 14 youth
- Air Rifle – doubled in size to two nights this year
- Ag Awareness Day took place in September – 13 classrooms from Ogle and Carroll Counties
- Ambassador Team is getting ready to go into the schools to promote 4-H – will see around 1,000 youth when done.
- Rabbit and Poultry SPIN club is in the making
- Meats Judging team practices with Chelsea

Nicole Groezinger – DeKalb 4-H

- Leader Trainings have been taking place and there are four new Cloverbud clubs or a total of 8
- A club is restarting down in Sandwich.
- Training new SPIN Master Naturalist Club
- Archery & Air Rifles has started up again
- Discover 4-H Day Carnival – sending emails to those that came

Noel asked about using text blasts to parents for potential interest in joining. He said parents may be more likely to read a text than an email that is sent to them. This was excellent insight and something our staff will investigate with our new computer system. (Extension just got a new enrollment system called Z Suites this October, and staff are still learning all its tricks.)

Johnna shared she has been actively involved in several the things mentioned by the other staff including 4-H Camp, Cooking Schools, Ag Awareness Day, and recently finished a nine-week program called Health Jam at the Oregon School. **She will be providing the leadership to the Juntos program at the Belvidere School District this January and February.**

Needs Assessment

Johnna shared with the committee that a needs assessment is in the process of being finalized. She was going to share it with the committee tonight to fill it out, but after talking to the Unit's County Director it was put on hold and will be distributed a little later. She asked that all committee members please complete the survey once they receive it, as their input and insight will be greatly appreciated and needed.

Noel asked if there was a cap on the number of members we could have in the program, and what was the enrollment in its prime? It was shared 20 years ago or, so we were probably more like 500 members and now we are between 320 to 375. We have no cap, and the University of Illinois will never tell us to stop growing. While we are encouraged to grow, but to also make sure we are reaching all audiences and they we are reaching parity in our communities. We all have places where we are not meeting parity and this committee can help us in looking at ways to reach that goal.

Gina asked about whether SPIN clubs must be project related or if they could they be for any interest? It was shared that as long as we have an adult that is willing to teach a topic of interests for six or more times we could have a SPIN club (as long as it is legal and ethical). 4-H Staff would meet with the volunteers to come up with their game plan for the club meeting sessions. Gina said she wondered if something on creating Tic Toc videos and editing might be a SPIN club. There is a firefighter who is currently trending on Tic Toc.

Noel asked when do kids typically start to join 4-H...elementary, jr. high or high school? Johnna shared most of our new members come from younger youth. Cloverbuds is growing because it is an age, they want to start something...same with our third and fourth graders. Jr. high and high school is where we start to see a decline in membership as they start to have more choices, like sports, school clubs, etc.

Johnna thanked the committee for their attendance, asked them to write the May 23 meeting in their calendars, and to please complete the needs assessment when it is sent to them. She also reminded them to contact our 4-H staff with any questions, or suggestions.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.