

Columbia/Boone County Board of Health/GMO Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

The GMO subcommittee gathered on Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. for a scheduled meeting at City Hall, Conference Room 1A, 701 E. Broadway, Columbia, MO.

Members Present

Denise Stillson

Cynthia 'Ivy' Boley

Harry Feirman

Ivy shared what she had learned contacting optional venues. A wide range of charges were quoted for ½ day (4 hours) use of facility. They ranged from \$600-\$1500 with most places charging audio/visual in an ala carte fashion. Among the places contacted were Launer Auditorium, Columbia College, Reynolds Alumni Center, Monsanto Auditorium, Holiday Inn Conference Center, and Unity Church.

Possible alternatives that might be used without charge were discussed, but concerns about the seating capacity were voiced. Among these were the library, the ARC, and Columbia Department of Health. Harry and Ivy were curious as to whether the City Hall Council Chambers were an option. It was decided Stephanie Browning would be contacted to find the answer.

Other potential venues were mentioned to be contacted were Church of Christ, True/False Geology; Parkade; Stephans Dulaney(?) on Broadway.

Cost and possible partnerships were brought up. Jean Sax was unable to attend the meeting. She had contact information for the Ag Extention Program whom she had been looking to partner with. She shared that she would most likely be unavailable for further meetings due to another commitment.

It was discussed that the Ag Extention Program and Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture would be contacted regarding forming a partnership for the event. Also, student organizations, Future Farmers, People's Visioning, Natural Grocer, ect.

Possible dates for the GMO Symposium were discussed pending the availability of venue. There are three weekends in October with no Mizzou football games; being October 17, October, 24, and October 31.

How many panelists were decided at six to have an idea what the audio/visual needs would be. It was discussed that each panelist would get a set amount of time to speak, and whether or not to take questions after each speaker or wait. Harry discussed the need to have a moderator who could proactively determine interest in specific key topics, (?show of hands, ?marks on dry erase board)

He also felt it was necessary to keep the discussion focused on concerns relevant to Columbia, and what the Columbia citizens need to know on the topic of GMO. The moderator could summarize, narrowing focus into actionable items. (Ivy suggests the need for a professional to make these “actionable” determinations.)

The possible list of panel would include; Dr. Kremer GMO 101, a farmer, a registered dietician, (not Melinda Hemmelgarn), a possible crop breeder, researcher from the University, and Journalist/Editor.