

**Monthly Meeting
Minutes
February 10, 2009
8:00 AM
Library**

Call to order at 8:05 AM

Present: Board of Health – Matt Brovender, Esq., Ken Lalime, RPH, John McNamara, MD, Sheldon Miller, Theresa Quell, PhD, RN, and Edward Tracey, MD

Staff – Tim Callahan, Director of Health, David Reed, MD, Medical Director and Thomas Closter, Director of Environmental Health, Rhonda Collins, Health Educator

Minutes of January 13, 2009 meeting – Motion to approve by Dr. Quell, seconded by Dr. Tracey, passed unanimously

Fodor Farm Project

Rhonda Collins, Health Educator presented the results of the Fodor Farm Community Garden survey. The survey collected information on demographics, reasons for gardening, fruit/vegetable consumption, physical activity, grocery spending and time spent gardening with children. The pre-survey was administered in April 2008 during registration for the community garden with a return rate of 86%. The post-survey was mailed in late October 2008 with a 54% return rate.

Post-survey results indicated that the gardeners spent less money on groceries weekly and they felt they did save money on produce. Almost 40% reported they received a significant amount of produce from their garden followed by 60% reporting some produce from their garden. Vegetable consumption appeared to decrease by the time the post-survey was completed. Physical activity increased in the post-survey but not specifically by gardening. Respondents reported a lower rate of gardening in the post-survey. The decrease in both gardening activity and vegetable consumption may be due to the fact that the post-survey was sent out the end of October.

Most people reported that during the season they spent between 1-5 hours/week (70%) followed by 6–10 hours/week (26%) gardening. Forty-three percent reported they gardened with children. Those gardening with children reported spending more time gardening (6-15 hrs/wk). Sixty-six percent of the children active in the garden were age 7 and younger, followed by 31% aged 13 – 18 years of age.

Staffing & Budget

Mr. Callahan presented the details of the effects the Mayor's proposed budget will have on staffing and operations of the Health Department. There are 5 positions, 3 fully funded by city dollars and two partially city funded, slated for defunding. An early retirement package is also under consideration. Seven Health Department employees are eligible for this package. The proposed reduction in the Health Department budget is

17%. The Board asked Mr. Callahan to find out the dollar and percentage reductions to other city departments budgets

Fees

In follow up to the Board's request at the January 13, 2009 meeting, adjustments were made to the environmental program fee schedule. The Board discussed the options and agreed to consider a 20% mark up on all but the class IV food establishment license. The class IV license would be set at 10% over cost. The Board questioned how the nearly \$100,000 in additional revenue from the fee increases would impact the expense side of the Health Department budget.

Adjourn 9:40 AM

