

## **COOL CITIES COMMITTEE**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Rice called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The following members were present and answered roll call: Martin and Page.

Also Present: Senior Planner Caitlin Rice, Willoughby Farms Superintendent Carol Freker, Guest Speaker John Michel – Soulcial Kitchen.

### **SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR**

No speakers from the floor were present.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

No quorum to approve minutes.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **1. Guest Speaker - John Michel – Soulcial Kitchen**

Mr. Michel presented the background and vision of his business, Soulcial Kitchen and community programs - Currency of Caring and Love They Neighbor. Mr. Michel founded Soulcial Kitchen with the recognition that there is not a food availability problem, rather a food mobility problem and modeled his business around going to the community. Soulcial Kitchen campus is a hospitality incubator focused on developing small businesses. Soulcial Kitchen hosts the first Food Truck Apprentice Program that trains and supports those entering the mobile food industry. Currency for Care is a tokenized free hot meal program where people can purchase tokens to be utilized by anyone in need at participating restaurants. Love They Neighbor engages with community partners to use food trucks to deliver meals to a neighborhood or group. Mr. Michel further explains the locations these programs currently operate and how they function. Anyone can get involved by purchasing tokens for the Currency of Caring or supporting participating businesses. Mr. Michel is also organizing with community members such as Willoughby Farms and the Food Pantry for reducing food waste at restaurants with 'all calls' for leftover foods.

Recently, Soulcial Kitchen has partnered with Old Herald in Collinsville where a percent of sales from a creperie and event hall will be donated to Currency for Care.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Staff discussed with the Committee the programs and updates presented by surrounding communities at the Green Cities Report Out 2024.

Staff presented upcoming winter programs with Willoughby Farms, Table to Garden and Seed STL including the Food: Too Good to Waste series.

### **COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

n/a

### **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

n/a

**Motion to adjourn made by Page and seconded by Martin.**

**Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion Approved (3-0) ADJOURNMENT at 7:07 pm.**