



Detroit Food Policy Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 9, 2014
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Eastern Market
Minutes

1) Welcome and Roll Call

In attendance: Suzette Olaker – Nutrition and Well Being, Kathryn Underwood – City Council Appointee, Anika Grose – Whole Sale Distribution, Colin Packard – Community At Large, Velonda Thompson, WIC Manager for IPH – representative for DHWP, Jelani Barber, COLORS Detroit and Whole Foods – Community at large, Tepahirah Rushdan, Greening of Detroit – Community At Large, Eileen Haraminac, MSU Extension – Universities and Colleges sector, Marisol Teachworth – K-12 Education, Phil Jones – Food Industry Workers, Sandra Turner Handy, Lydia Gutierrez, Ashley Atkinson, Jerry Hebron
Guests: Renee Wallace – Food Plus Detroit, Suzanne Henley – community member

2) Remarks from the Chair, Review of Meeting Protocol, Welcome New Members

Suzette reviewed the meeting guidelines. During roll call Suzette asked everyone to introduce themselves and give their sector and background information. We are working to improve our communications to expand our capacity to get our work done. We encourage everyone to jump in and share their ideas. The board started with a set of bylaws when we were founded, and since then we have grown as an organization. Because we have different responsibilities we need to revise the bylaws to match the current status of our organization. The proposed revision to the bylaws are included in the board packs. Please review the revisions and prepare to give feedback

3) Review and Acceptance of the November Meeting Minutes

Accepted with corrections

4) Terra Madre – Phil Jones

Phil was part of a delegation from the United States to Terra Madre gathering in Turrine, Italy. He shared a visual report of his trip. Participants from all over the US and the world representing 175 nationalities gathered to participate at the gathering in October. There were international panels, local food workshops, and lots of food and food tasting. Phil reported there was enough food to make you dizzy. The conference also included a grocery store the size of the original Hudson's Department Store. The primary take away from the experience was the universality of our food needs.

Discussion:

The event happens every even year.

Q: how many people attend?

A: A quarter of a million. It's overwhelming. It's like a united nations of food. You meet people you would not come in contact with other than at Terra Madre. When Kathryn attended the event for the first time in 2012 she decided to start a chapter in Detroit. The Detroit chapter has finally started, and Kathryn was voted onto the board of the national Slow Foods organization.

PJ: we need to examine our standards. Other countries won't sell the items that we allow to be sold here

Lydia: Terra Madre in Spanish is Mother Earth. What a rich experience. What is one thing we could do today based on what you learned?

Phil: Regionalism. The different regions represented in Italy had different foods because that's what came out of the land. Regions protect their food and don't allow the food system to take control of their food

Kathryn: Was inspired to start a Slow Foods chapter in Detroit. The goal is to protect and maintain the culture around food. Urban agriculture also has a role to play in protecting our food cultures.

Phil: there was a lot of synergy around food culture. Phil did a workshop on the diaspora and food, and there were several other events that explored the food culture of the diaspora.

Kathryn: had a soft launch event of Slow Foods Detroit Chapter with an event called You Say Tomato at Spirit of Hope Church. There are a lot of communities that we need to include.

Lydia offered the use of her gallery for future events.

Kathryn: Slow Foods wants to do a series of tours of ethnic markets.

Q: were you part of panels or did you hear discussions about how you address food demands for population increase?

A: there were a lot of discussions on land loss and food security. There were discussions about lots of other countries that may have included this topic.

5) Nominating Committee Report

Ashley is the sole remaining member of the nominating committee. Welcome new members. There was an error that happened. We were under the assumption that all new members received an orientation that included information on all our practices that included our attendance policy. That did not happen at the last round of nominations and because of this Tee was left off of the list of people recommended to be elected for reelection to a seat. **The nominating committee would like to recommend that she be reelected to her seat on the council. Recommendation approved by consensus.**

We want to make sure that all members understand our attendance policy that members not miss three meetings in six months. We want to make sure everyone knows that there is a phone line to call in, and we want to welcome members who have children to participate.

There are some seats that are vacant based on the 21 members that our bylaws require us to have. We want to have a special election in the spring. We need to have new members participate in the nominating committee.

Q: Has there been a discussion about reevaluating how many members we have?

A: We have had a discussion about the number of members we have, and we decided that right now we want to keep representatives from all of the sectors we currently have.

Discussion: The nominating committee posts announcements for seats that are open, makes sure we get the posting out to everyone we possibly can, collects the nominations to review them, makes recommendations to the board about filling empty seats. There are not a lot of meetings.

Lydia and Anika will participate. Marisol will consider participating.

Q: what seats are open?

A: Retail Food, At large, Emergency Food, Mayor's office appointee, Health Department appointee.

Discussion: We did not designate a seat for Institutional Food on the council. We had the discussion but we did not change the bylaws

Q: is there a mentoring position for leaving members for the new person who fills the seat?

6) Fundraising and staffing update

Jerry Ann reported on fundraising and staffing. The posting for the executive director has been closed.

Jerry is in the process of scheduling a meeting with the hiring committee to narrow down the candidates that will be interviewed. She would like the hiring committee to meet before Christmas, and set a schedule to select a candidate.

Our fundraising person was not able to take on our fundraising campaign because of illness. We are looking for a new fundraising person.

Q: Is the position part time?

A: It is part time contract position for six months.

7) DFPC Retreat

We originally planned to hold our retreat the week of January 5. Because the timeline for selecting an Executive Director has been adjusted we will push back the date of the retreat so the new Director will be able to participate. If we meet in February will this be on the timeline of having the Executive Director selected? Yes. We want to find a date to include the most people possible. Can we look a couple weeks further out and put together a doodle with several options? If we know who's catering that would encourage people to attend.

8) Summit – Phil Jones

We will send out our sign up forms for the summit planning committee. We have about six people currently participating in the summit planning committee; three of whom are council members. Phil made a plea to get more council members to participate. The summit is important because it is our opportunity to inform community members and be informed by community members. We will resend the information to help people get involved

The Summit is March 31-April 2 at Focus: HOPE. The theme is Reclaim redefine and rebuild. We want to increase our numbers, have deeper impact, and celebrate five years of our organization moving forward. We have made it easier for council members to participate and we will resend the sign up forms to council members.

Q: Are we partnering with DFFC?

A: We are having some conversations with them about what that will look like.

Q: When have you started planning in the past?

A: A lot farther down the line.

Q: does the summit have to be on those dates?

A: we have started the planning process and we are not changing the dates at this point. We have looked at a lot of other events and schedule conflicts to get this date.

Q: Are all the new council members going to receive a copy of the information in order to make an informed decision about how they can participate?

Discussion: We have also been having some technical difficulties about people not getting emails because of incompatibilities among email providers and we are exploring how to give all council members a DFPC email account so we don't have this issue.

9) Coordinator's Report

The coordinator's report is attached.

Kibibi ask everyone to give her updated contact information.

Q: Is contact information confidential? It will be shared with DFPC members, but Kibibi will ask permission before sharing personal contact information with people outside of DFPC members.

10) Reports from Governmental Representatives

a. Department of Health and Wellness Promotion – Velonda Thompson

Transfer of public health services that are moving from IPH back to city of Detroit. WIC will be back under city starting January 5. Some other services have been moved back to city but are being contracted out.

Q: are the contracted services being moved out of the city of Detroit?

A: now all the contracts are inside the city. There will still be a WIC manager, but there will be vendors that manage the WIC clinics.

Q: is this an opportune time for us to be sharing information spreading the word about anything?

A: there has not been any information shared by the deputy director about what information should be shared about what can be done.

Discussion: Velonda has not been able to get information about how the programs will be structured and who to call to get information. When is the last day the city will work? December 19. The WIC staff has been challenged because they plan three months ahead, but they do not have the information to plan.

b. Legislative Branch Report – Kathryn Underwood

Still moving ahead on animal ordinance and food truck ordinance. Last week Kathryn participated in two day workshop hosted by Food Plus Detroit on commercial compost facilities, which specifically looked at composting of food waste. MDEQ did training on how to operate a compost business. The workshop was sold out. There were people from Detroit and outside Detroit. The second day was just for people from Detroit. Jerry Ann got her land!

a. Executive Branch Report

11) Next Meeting – January 13, 2015 @ Eastern Market

Suzette discussed our plans to meet once per quarter at different locations in the community.

12) Public Comments

Renee – the summit and retreats planning are great opportunities to get immersed in the work of the council. Encourages people, especially new people, to get involved in the planning of the retreat and the summit. The composting program that Food Plus Detroit is getting involved with people who are interested in composting at all scales and interests. If you know of people who are interested in working on scaling up commercial composting contact Renee. Composting of food waste is not regulated in the state of Michigan. Thanked Kathryn and Suzette for participating.

Medgar Clark – attended the past two summits and several council meetings. very concerned about having community voice represented, and concerned about what the council is accomplishing. Council has not posted fund development position on the website, and we have not completed an annual report since 2012. Very concerned about the council completing the work we plan to do. He would like to see more people attending the meeting from the community.

Phil – we have worked to engage community in our members of the board. We need to do more to engage community members, but we have been working to engage community members since we began meeting.

Lydia – when we have meetings at community locations the host organization always works to bring community members to the meetings

Discussion: How do people find out about the meetings and find out that they can attend?

Website, email list, people contact us by phone and email, and people who attend the larger events of the food policy council.

We decided that report on the food system was too data heavy to produce every year and community members were getting too much information too often. We need to have our history be transparent so people know what has gone into getting us here. The council was started by people that have done a lot to address the need to have a policy on food security in Detroit.

The theme for this is an opportunity to show what has been done and invite people to deepen their engagement.

Suzette invited Medgar to continue to voice his opinions and concerns.

13) Announcements

Ashley: the 2015 Urban Roots Application, 9 week community garden training program, open to residents of Detroit, Highland Park and Hamtramck who are growing food in community gardens. \$75 for the course and there are scholarships and payment plans. Limited to 30 participants.

Kibibi: Webinar – Advancing a Local Food Council Network in Michigan, Tuesday, December 16 at 10:30am, Kibibi sent an email with the link to register for the webinar

Michigan Citizen Holiday Party is Thursday, December 18 at 2 p.m. 1055 Trumbull, Detroit, MI 48216, RSVP to Zenobia by December 12

Discussion: These events could be opportunities to advertise for the summit, and we can ask people to sign up to volunteer. We need to promote in Spanish and Arabic.

14) Adjournment 7:43