



**Detroit Food Policy Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, June 11, 2014**

**5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

**Eastern Market Corporation**

**Agenda**

1) Welcome and Roll Call

In attendance: Suzette Olaker, Ashley Atkinson, Willie Spivey, Betti Wiggins, Kami Pothukuchi (by phone), Mimi Pledl, DeWayne Wells, Jerry Ann Hebron, Kathryn Lynch Underwood, Marilyn Nefer Ra Barber

Staff: Cheryl A. Simon, Kibibi Blount-Dorn

2) Opening Remarks, Review of Meeting Protocol and Agenda

Suzette opened the meeting. She introduced the meeting protocols and agenda. The council has just elected a new Executive Committee and we have had some turnover in the council's membership since our retreat. Included in the board pack are meeting and discussion guidelines, and consensus decision making process. At the retreat we focused on getting to know each other, ways to be effective, and who we are when we interact with others. We developed these guidelines during the retreat.

Q: Will we include this information in an orientation packet for our new board members in November?

A: Yes. We wanted to take these things out and refresh ourselves also.

The discussion guidelines help us stay focused on this meeting so we can keep to the topics at hand. The history that you mentioned about how we developed these guidelines might be good to bring up. Our bylaws does specify using a consensus process. It is included in our bylaws that a simple majority will be used to make decisions if a decision cannot be reached by consensus.

Q: Is there anything council members can do to support the new chair using the meeting guidelines?

A: I always covet support on keeping us focused on what we need to do.

3) Review and Acceptance of the May Meeting Minutes

**Minutes approved with corrections**

4) News from the Field: Environmental Justice

One of the things we previously talked about was having meetings be not just a report out but being informative as well. What we will do is add into our agenda one area called News from

the Field. We will have a 3-5 minute segment where we can share information on a particular topic. We would like broad participation for this new item.

Kami: I appreciate the changes that have been made. Can I ask that we **bold** or **highlight** decisions that were made in the minutes? That will help us follow up on items in next meetings.

Cheryl: We also want to have an opportunity to hear from other sectors that are represented on the council. The purpose would be to talk about how the sectors represented connect with food work.

Ashley: Propose to skip to the next item on the agenda and come back to the News from the Field if Sandra comes in.

Willie: I would like to talk about how I am involved in Environmental Justice every day.

Kathryn: I remember raising this as an issue some time ago, so I am happy to see this.

Betti: I propose that if anyone wants to present at the meeting they talk with Cheryl.

Cheryl: **The Executive Committee meets the week before the monthly meeting. Anyone interested in presenting at the August meeting should contact Cheryl or the Executive Committee before August 6<sup>th</sup>, which is the next Executive Committee meeting.**

Ashley: We should have discussion pointers, and offer assistance if council members need it for preparing their report. What are the common things that we want to hear about?

Kami: I enjoyed Dan's presentation when we met in Northwest Detroit, but it would have been good for that to be shorter. One thing would be to have people think of challenges they are having and bring them to the council to have assistance. It would be good to have some guidelines. There can be more time for dialogue and Q&A after the presentation.

Suzette: There seems to be agreement around the table that we want to have some time for dialogue after the presentation.

#### 5) Strategic Plan Report and Activity: Retail Grocery Strategy

Kibibi reviewed the work of the Healthy Food Access workgroup and distributed a strategy document. The grocery store survey and tool kit for community members will help them work with grocery store and other store owners in their neighborhood. We reviewed the Food Finder project including data to be included. Survey will cover access, affordability and quality. Next, we will cover customer service. This will be an open source of data for residents and service providers. Several partners are working on the project including Green Grocer Project and United Way. Mimi gave a brief review of the Green Grocer Project. They work one on one with Detroit grocers. So far, we have worked with 38 of the 77 stores providing technical assistance, marketing and financing. Listening sessions will be held in all 7 council districts to get feedback on grocery stores. Other partners have been RECI, United Way for Southeastern Michigan, Alex Hill, Detroit Food Justice Taskforce and DFPC. One of things we want to make sure is that the surveys are representative of the entire community. Willie: My colleagues don't tend to do surveys. We want to know where to go to get the best food. How do we get that information? Kibibi talked about the information on the Food Finder and how we will engage community organizations. Willie suggested taking a bus tour of community members to grocery stores. Kami- Willie makes a good point. **What if we added a feature that shows the price of 10-12 basic items from various grocery stores to help people know where the best food is?**

Why are we doing this project? Need to make sure the people who most need this info can get it. If the neighborhood center has access to the Food Finder and residents can access this information from there, which is maybe the way to go. Kibibi reviewed the survey questions and the data that is being collected. We are looking at having the grocery stores, emergency pantries, etc. keep their own information up to date. Kami asked questions related to updating the data. Betti: So, how will residents like the ones Willie talked about access the data? Can we engage grocers in the project to ask them for permission to rate their stores? Betti is concerned that we make sure that the data is available to people who need it most. Ashley and Kathryn both encouraged some sort of endorsement system for grocery stores. Betti suggested engaging the district leadership in this issue. They can help get the information out. Cheryl: We intend to engage neighborhood organizations and service organizations in helping connect people with the information.

Suggestions: **Move forward to create “thumbs up” or some sort of communication about stores, and build relationship with city to promote stores that do really good things, and we may need to do surveys.** Put this on agenda of city district offices. If a store gets thumbs up they shouldn't always get a thumbs up, we need to continue to review them. **Revise the action steps and timeline and bring it back to the next council meeting. Consensus achieved.**

6) Nominating Committee Report-see Coordinator's Report

7) Coordinator's Report

The Nominating Committee selected a slate of nominees for the Executive Committee. At the last meeting, the Nominating Committee discussed the question of a youth seat. The recommendation is that we designate a seat for a youth 13-18 for a term of one year, and can serve three terms. They recommended that council members rotate serving as a mentor to the youth representative. We discussed the K-12 seat and the need for the seat to be represented by a parent, teacher, or someone who works in schools with students. Betti sees her role as more of an institutional food seat. The Executive Committee was asked to look at the bylaws. Their position was that we don't need to change the bylaws. The Community at large seats can be designated as specific seats without changing the bylaws, and we want to make sure that a youth seat and an institutional food seat be represented in the Community at large seats.

The Coordinators report is attached. It includes an update on fundraising, and our services agreement with TGOD. We are looking at proposals for HR and personnel management services. The DFPC participated in the W. K. Kellogg Foundation's Harvesting Change convening last month. Everyone did a really good job representing what is happening in Detroit. We have been invited to co-present a webinar with Detroit Great Lakes Bioneers to the national Bioneers on food policy councils. The schedule for the Michigan Citizen is on the last page.

Q: What item of the strategic plan will we discuss at the next meeting? **The Council agreed that we will discuss Objective A related to building relationships with the Mayor, City Council and District Managers at our August meeting.**

8) Reports from Governmental Representatives

a. Department of Health and Wellness Promotion – Dr. Velonda Thompson: Nothing to report.

b. Legislative Branch Report – Kathryn Underwood

The few of us left as CPC staff will be staying as CPC staff under the City Council and not moved to the PDD. Kathryn is moving forward on developing the animal ordinance.

Lesson: If you have 20-40 goats in your neighborhood don't call the media and tell them. It is still illegal to have farm animals in the city. Animal control is not coming out searching for farm animals, but when they hear about them, they have to act on it.

Someone came in with goats to see what they can do on vacant land. But the city has said that if someone complains they will come out and remove the animals. There was a lot of outcry on social media about the incident. We have a multi-stakeholder process in place to address the issue of farm animals, and we are trying to figure out a way to bring in people who are not supportive and get them involved.

Q: What are the main objections?

A: Some people feel like they are in a city and that's not what they signed up for. Some people have strong experiences about when they were in the rural south. People have varying opinions about what they want and don't want in their neighborhoods, and my job is to listen to everybody's voice.

The current ordinance is being tweaked. As we hear that there are people in the community or city departments that have issues with the ordinance we are making adjustments to address the concerns.

At the Kellogg convening, Kathryn sat on a panel with Jess Daniel, Devita Davison, Cheryl Simon and representatives from Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to discuss how to make it easier to develop food businesses in the city.

She was appalled when she heard about what is going on with IPH and the issues they have in getting businesses licensed. I think we need to support what Operation Above Ground is doing regarding this issue.

Cheryl: I have been attending the monthly Operation Above Ground meetings, and we are meeting with Jess and Devita this month to discuss how we can be supportive of this issue.

Ashley: I would like to ask for a presentation from Operation Above Ground at the next meeting.

Kami: I second the proposal to invite Jess and Devita to the council and finding out how the council can be supportive. They raised some issues at the summit, and if we can make those available to the council members that would be helpful. **The Council agreed to ask Jess and Devita to present on Operation Above Ground at our next meeting during the Notes from the Field item on the agenda. We will need to allow a little extra time for this item.**

c. Executive Branch Report

9) Next Meeting – August 12, 2014. We will not meet in July.

## 10) Public Comments

Sandra Turner Handy reported on Community member Charity Hicks, who was in an accident in late May and is in a coma. She was in New York at a bus stop and was hit by a car. She has a brain injury, punctured lung, and broken rib. She is in a medically induced coma, and her condition has not changed in the last week. There is information about how she is doing and how to contribute financially to help her family with her care on the EMAC website.

Renee: I want to contribute to what Kathryn said about engagement on the animal ordinance. It is very important for people to feel heard. The respectful space and the feeling of being acknowledged are important. The issues that people have are being taken into consideration. Maintaining that is critical in how a process goes. When are out doing things we have allies, encourage people to talk to their allies.

Katlin: Studying community health in school, and is interested in participating in strategic plan and report, has experience in working with community organizations and would like to work with Kibibi and Mimi.

Stewart – new to Detroit

Elsa – student from France and interested in social justice and agriculture

John – GroundWerks CI

Jenny – GroundWerks CI

## 11) Announcement

Renee: Black Urban Gardeners and Farmers Conference is October 17-19. We are doing outreach locally, statewide, nationally and internationally. We are sending out a save the date and outreach contact list. If you are interested in participating me know. Kibibi is participating on behalf of the DFPC.

Kami: WSU Farmers Market 11 am – 4 pm on Cass across the street from Main Library

Betti: Catherine Ferguson Academy has lost its charter and will become vacant on June 30. DPS is looking for tenants, and the rental prices are more than reasonable. One option is to offer the building to the community with multiple tenants.

Detroit School Garden Collaborative is looking for student assistants (some college education required), June 23-August 22, supervising group of students. It should be up online soon. They are working on the Kettering project. Go on Berg Rd and Fargo at Tappin (Ludington) to see their permaculture program.

Willie has the volunteer schedule for Plum St. Garden. Uncle Willie Grown Plants are also available at Meldrum Fresh Market on Thursdays.

The Oakland Ave. Farmers Market begins June 7 and will run on Saturdays 11-3

Meldrum Fresh Market is on Thursdays, 11-2, EAT alumni are selling value added items

GRP: Transplants pick up July 17 and 19 at Plum Street Market Garden. Summerfest is June 17 at Clark Park. August 6 is 17th annual Garden Tour

DeWayne: MI Good Food Charter Steering Committee has started their take your place at the table campaign to ask organizations to sign on to the MI Good Food Charter.

## 12) Adjournment at 7:35 p.m.