



Detroit Food Policy Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 9 2015
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Eastern Market
MINUTES

1) Welcome and Roll Call

Sandra Turner-Handy started meeting until Suzette arrived

In attendance: Phil Jones, Eileen Haraminac, Tyler Chapman, Willie Spivey, Kathryn Lynch Underwood, Paris Hutchinson (for Velonda Thompson), Zaundra Wimberley, Sandra Turner Handy (phone), Garry Bulluck, Marisol Teachworth, Tepfirah Rushdan (phone), Suzette Olaker, Jelani Barber, Mimi Pledl

2) Remarks from the Chair

3) Review and Acceptance of the May Meeting Minutes

Can we start numbering the pages of the minutes? **Minutes Accepted.** Suzette arrived and chaired the rest of the meeting.

4) Recovery Park, Gary Wozniak

Kathryn introduced Gary Wozniak. The city is ready to move finally on lease of land of the project. This is the largest food related project that will be going through the city, and Kathryn wants as many people in the community to hear about the project as possible before the official hearings.

Gary Wozniak presented. Recovery Park originated with Storehouse of Hope Substance Abuse Recovery Program. Benefits to Detroit include repurpose underutilized assets

The project has financial support from 7 philanthropic organizations, discussions with major investors, LOC approved w Detroit Development Fund, Preferred equity investment with 6 technical advisors, preferred equity with 3 technical advisors. Project leaders have held 13 community engagement meetings, done door to door surveys, and led engagement projects and research by multiple partners.

Today they are selling to 12 Detroit restaurants, harvesting 40 products. Their current location is bounded by Forest, I-94, St. Aubin, and Chene, this is the middle east central district or Poletown/Germantown. Area selected by larger group of people because it had high vacancy with land in municipal inventory, access to transportation, active infrastructure.

4 phases: Phase 1 will start in fall or next spring near Chene Ferry market, all storm drains are being closed off and storm water is being diverted by swales. They are looking at how much water will go back into ground water, how much water they can harvest for irrigation. Pilot farm at 2600 E. Grand includes a high tunnel run by Michelle Lutz. The pilot project didn't sell a high volume, but they grew a large variety of products. The products are chef centered, and delivered within 4 hours of harvest to area restaurants. They built a 1 acre heated facility in Waterford and expanded to 12 restaurants and have about 24 restaurants on waiting list. www.recoverypark.org and www.recoveryparkfarms.com. NextEnergy is the corporate sponsor for lighting solutions for indoor growing. They are currently in the process of site selection and facilities schedule. The goal is to scale up to provide accessible prices for produce. Long term goal is to build companies that will transition into ownership by the employees.

Q: How many jobs have been created?

8 so far, 5 are high skilled technical jobs, and 3 entry level. Plan to have 35 employees by the end of the year

Q: How long will it take for the operation to be self-sustaining?

A: business model is based on a 5 year time horizon. Now moving into borrowing, based on 3 acres running by end of next year the project will be in black by month 35. Year 2 pay for greenhouses without borrowing.

Q: What is wage scale?

A: employees start at \$10, and receive benefits and supportive services to allow them to improve their skills and incubate businesses. By ear 3 average worker will make \$12-15 per hour. Detroit does not have trained hydroponic workforce so training is a challenge.

Q: What organizations will you partner with for workforce development?

A: DWEJ, Jewish Vocational Services, Greening of Detroit, Matrix and Team Mental Health to name a few.

Discussion: the training and support services are so important. Gary gave his contact information and asked council members to can contact him if they have ways to assist with training or other aspects of the project.

313-737-3710 Gary Cell

Q: How can DFPC support? Our strategic plan includes developing land sale strategy, give us some of your time to help us develop policy.

There have been a lot of challenges working with the city and the current mayor. Gary needs people to support the project by attending community meetings and city hearings, and giving constructive criticism.

How do you plan to secure and allocate water?

At first water will come out of the tap, and the project is exploring where they can harvest water without using tap. They also have to figure out what happens to the water that is leaving the pipe, which is what Great Lakes Restoration Project is looking at.

Kathrny will also help to keep us informed of how the project is going.

5) Notes from the Field – Farm to School, Marisol Teachworth

The James and Grace Lee Boggs School has a farming and food component to the vision for the school. They want to include food in the school curriculum. They currently have a garden with a hoophouse and six raised beds that they were able to build with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and Detroit Public Schools. The school food program serves three meals a day, and there are a lot of vegans and vegetarians who attend the school. Parents and teachers are thinking about how to offer healthy options for all the students. The school has a farm to school program in which they partner with farms in the city: D-Town Farm, Burnside Farm, Freedom Freedom, and EarthWorks. Parents do cooking demonstrations. Students also visit the farms, taste food from the gardens, and learn where food comes from.

As the school grows they want to think of school food and how to cook food on site, potentially partner with other food vendors, and start a youth farm stand. They have a three wheeled bike that they use to deliver extra food to families in the community. The School currently has grades K-5, and they plan to grow to grades K-12 plus grades 13-14.

Discussion: How strong is the parent group? The parents are supportive and committed. They developed a school food vision, and are committed to doing things differently. The Boggs School could reach out to the Organic Consumer Association because they are a strong advocate for non-gmo. Council members feel that the activities of the Boggs School are having a big impact across the community. Kathryn offered to share resources from Slow Foods, which has a School Garden Curriculum. The school could provide an opportunity to teach agriculture skills at the high school level.

6) Committee Reports

a. Research and Policy Committee

The Research and Policy committee met last month. We discussed the structure and procedures for reporting to the director and full council, and how tasks will be assigned to the subcommittees. We will meet the fourth Thursday of each month.

Food security policy update subcommittee June 18, 4-5:30

b. Education and Engagement Committee

The Education and Engagement committee met last month. We discussed the structure and procedures for reporting to the director and full council, and how tasks will be assigned to the subcommittees. We also discussed the annual campaign that the fund development committee is developing, the annual fundraiser that we will be kicking off this year, and we began planning our initial steps for planning next year's summit. We will meet the third Wednesday of each month.

7) Director's Report

Full report is attached. This has been a busy month. The staff has attended a lot of meetings and conferences, and started work with the Committees. Fund Development committee meets Friday at 10:30 at Eastern Market.

We got an invitation to submit a letter of intent to the Erb Family Foundation. We continue to talk to other foundations. Winona attended a webinar about hosting fundraising events that was very useful. There is a webinar tomorrow on annual giving, which is timely since we are creating an annual giving campaign that will start in August.

We had a good turnout at the Education and Engagement and Research and Policy Committees. Winona is working with the Economic Analysis engagement team, and met with members of the mayor's staff to discuss the study.

The staff is planning to give orientation to new members and will be contacting our new members shortly.

Winona attends the Fresh Prescription Planning meetings. The staff attended the Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference, MSU Food Justice Workshop, Michigan Local Food Council Meeting, U of M Food Sovereignty Symposium, and Innovations in Collective Modeling conference. Winona attended the White House First National Community Partners Summit. The speakers shared information about applying for federal funding for projects, and deputy directors of 11 departments of the federal government attended the Summit.

We continue to look for additional office space.

Discussion: Focus Hope is opening shared working space for organizations.

8) Reports from Governmental Representatives

a. Department of Health and Wellness Promotion – Velonda Thompson

Staff member from WIC attended and there is not update from the department.

b. Legislative Branch Report

Hoophouses: city will require permit for a hoophouse, but it will not be an extensive process.

The steps will generally include coming in with a site plan and prove that it meets requirements. There will be a visit to Detroit from the house agriculture committee; a group is putting together a tour and information to help them understand agriculture in Detroit.

Kathryn has started work on urban livestock guild, and had the first meeting with guild people.

she will be working on this June and July. CPC will start education and engagement efforts, the next planning meeting is June 10, 3pm at MSU Detroit Center. Kathryn attended session with Except, Dutch Trade organization, and heard about indoor growing. Some folks there are interested in working with us on a systems view of working on indoor growing systems. Detroit Regen website has some information.

Discussion: are they willing to do workforce training? Don't know yet, it was a really preliminary discussion.

Winona introduced Cheryl Kearney who will be working with the DFPC on updating the Food Security Policy. Expect to hear from her and Stephen for information about your sector for the update.

c. Executive Branch Report – Garry Bullock

Garry will get us on the agenda for the District Managers staff meeting in the next couple of weeks.

9) Next Meeting – August 11, 2015 @ Eastern Market

There will not be a July meeting

10) Public Comments

Medgar Clark- last Tuesday in Lansing Detroiters talked with legislators in Lansing about paid sick days. Latonya Garret from Detroit is on Senate Agriculture Committee. The vocational program at Golightly used to operate a greenhouse. Zaundra will inform us of updates. The People's Platform mentions the Detroit Food Policy Council's Summit, but no one from DFPC was at the last event to give information. Alice Fordum – on website there is a listing for markets. Is anyone doing anything to get a nice health foods store in Detroit?

A: You can connect with DBCFSN who is developing a co-op.

Erin Allen – DUFEB program is a nutrition incentive program that provides dollar for dollar match for food stamps to purchase Michigan grown fruits and vegetables at participating farmers markets and grocery stores. If you interact with people who can use this program Erin can provide information about the program, and can send someone to talk at meetings or events. There are volunteer opportunities, if anyone is willing to spread the word about the program they are looking for volunteers and leadership volunteers.

Shirley Brown – works with elder of Michigan and would like info on DUFEB

Lindsay Scalera – National voices for good food policy, educate people about policy that affects the food system. Talks with people about how policies affect what they do, and with legislators about what residents need. Now working on farm to school program and putting pressure on congress to increase funding for the federal farm to school program. Can do presentations about what is going on at the national level in food policy. Farmers guide to the farm bill, grant programs. Lindsey can send a link that Kibibi can share also.

Resonda Dorsey UDM in health master's program interested in policies that DFPC has worked on in the past.

11) Announcements

Willies is giving out collards to give to someone who has never had Collard greens, and Suzette is giving out sage plants.

12) Adjournment 7:35