



Detroit Food Policy Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 10, 2015
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Eastern Market
Minutes

1) Welcome and Roll Call

In attendance: Suzette Olaker, Garry Bullock, Kathryn Lynch Underwood, Ashley Atkinson, Willie Spivey, Jelani Barber, Tyler Chapman, Tepfirah Rushdan, Anika Grose, Phil Jones, Eileen Haraminac (phone), Sandra Turner-Handy (phone), Colin Packard
Staff: Winona Bynum, Kibibi Blount-Dorn

2) Remarks from the Chair

Suzette reviewed the meeting protocol.

3) Review and Acceptance of the February Meeting Minutes

Minutes accepted with corrections

4) Notes From the Field – Sandra Turner-Handy

Sandra's work is centered around turning Detroit green, making it resilient. Work around land, water, contamination. Works mostly around policy at city and state level related to environmental issues. There are a lot of areas that people don't think of as environmental areas, for example food. The fact that we have issues around land sale is an environmental issue. Sandra sits on boards of D4 (working on community benefits from development), Detroit Environmental Agenda (looking at several issues around the environment in Detroit), Detroit Climate Action Collaborative (developing a climate action plan), Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition (developing metrics to determine negative effects of contamination), Zero Waste Detroit (advocated for curbside recycling in Detroit, wants to look at commercial composting next), involved in mitigating effects of lead contamination, Motion Coalition (monitor childhood obesity rates in Wayne County and increase access to healthy food).

5) Retreat Report

Renee Wallace presented a report from our retreat held February 27. The design process structured the way the retreat was going to work. Winona, Suzette, Lydia, Kibibi, Colin were on the design team. We used existing information from previous retreat, strategic plan document. Thank you to everyone who was there and who participated. We did some real time redesign work during our retreat session.

DeWayne Wells and Cheryl Simon started with giving us some background about the history of the organization. Every 1-2 years we get new people and it is important to capture the history. We then started to give an overview of the structure of DFPC, and had a deeper conversation about how to restructure organization.

One of the things we looked to be in action about during the retreat was supporting the summit. We walked through the summit. We sent out a follow up worksheet after the retreat

One of the things we ran out of time for was an exercise to tell the story of the DFPC. Ashley won a pen during our story writing contest. The purpose was to give your one minute story of DFPC.

We did a scorecard at the end to see what we accomplished. We didn't accomplish everything that we set to accomplish, but we started the work that will continue after the retreat.

Winona thanked Renee for her work on the retreat and thanked everyone who attended and participated.

Winona presented the DFPC committee organization overview. At the retreat we discussed that the workgroup structure may not be the most effective way to carry out the current work of DFPC. We decided we needed a different way to address the issues that emerge. The executive Committee approved the committee structure at their meeting the following week.

Committees: Research and Policy, Engagement and Education, Fund Development and Nominating Committee. These committees will be standing committees, and we took the work groups and made them subcommittees of the standing committees. Each of the initiatives of the strategic plan falls under one of the committees or subcommittees.

The subcommittees of the Research and Policy Committee: Agriculture Advocates, Schools and Institutions, Economic Impact Study, Community Food Justice

Q: How do the subcommittees function?

A: The subcommittees will function as part of the standing committees. This will cut down on the meetings, and subcommittees will meet as they need, and when the topic is not active they will not have to meet.

Some people are looking at the policy piece, and other people are trying to get the word out about policy advocacy.

The subcommittees of the Engagement and Education Committee: Communication & Technology, Healthy Food Access

The fund development committee will operate year round. The nominating committee will be active May – November.

Staff Structure: we currently have an ED and Program Manager. We are in the process of hiring a research and policy committee and a fund development consultant. We hope to hire a communications coordinator and office manager in the future.

Our immediate next steps are identify and hire immediate staff required, solidify details of new structure and ensure all work allocated, identify objectives to be worked on as lead or support, create communication plan for flow of work and information, identify working space to accommodate staff growth, update website to support Friends of DFPC fund campaign and new committee structure, ensure all council members are on at least one committee, identify a chair and co-chair for each committee

Phil and Marisol volunteered to be the co-chairs for the summit which evolved into the Engagement and Education Committee. We need to have co-chairs for the Research and Policy Committee.

Q: Some of the initiatives are very clear and specific, but some are not. How can we make those objectives clear so they can keep moving forward?

A: Winona looked at the task under each objective and attempted to align each task with one of the committees. If people have feedback about where the objectives should be we can make adjustments.

Discussion: there are some things that we may not be able to move forward with because we don't have clarity about what we are doing. As things evolve we can update them, but if they

have not been given detail yet they can be given a broad structure. What is our process to decide the priorities within the strategic plan?

The committee will meet to look at the plan and make the priorities. Kibibi will primarily staff the Education and Engagement committee, Winona will staff the Research and Policy Committee until we have a Research coordinator to turn over to, and Winona will work with the fund development committee.

We also discussed meeting again after the summit to further clarify the process.

When would we do this?

Is there a document that talks about why certain things are included in the strategic plan, for example the item about Operation Above Ground?

With the work going to the committees can we push some things back to the council and ask if there are things we should take out of the list of objectives?

We need to do this with some consistency, and make the work more streamlined.

Tepfirah: Winona did a great job of consolidating what we talked about at the retreat.

Education and Engagement: April 15 6pm

Nominating committee will set a date in May

Q: What committees are most important to have information on at the summit?

A: Research and Policy and Education and Engagement

Discussion: Community Food Justice and Schools and Institutions should be moved to the Education and Engagement Committee.

Q: the subcommittee for Schools and Institutions is going to move to the Education and Engagement committee?

A: yes

Sandra: Will be on the Research and Policy Committee, and will serve as the chair.

Discussion: language, can we talk in terms of having people who are not members of the council to serve on the committee. People who serve on the council are also members of the community and we need to be careful about talking about us not being members of the community.

6) Summit

One of the main components is the workshops

90 minute, and 60 minute workshops.

Know your farmer, grocer, food: give examples of farmers and good grocers in the city.

DHWP: what is WIC and how does it relate to Detroit Food System

Future of Animals in Detroit: panel that includes Kathryn Underwood

Food Safety: resources

Food and race

Composting

Young Food Leaders

Spirituality and food

Land

Fresh Food Share

Improving Institutional Nutrition

Hopeful Harvest Project

Food, Film, Fun and Fellowship

So You Want to Grow a Garden

No Kid Hungry: Reauthorization of Child Nutrition Act

Community service collaborations in food justice

Story telling as part of slow foods

There will be four taste workshops: tasting based on the diaspora Phil and Matthew Raiford, coffee tasting with Great Lakes Coffee, tea and herbalism tasting Lottie Spadey and Jovan Sage, raw food tasting Nezaa Bendele

Tepfirah would like to do a workshop from Uprooting Racism, Planting Justice, she will follow up with Phil.

Youth program is close to finalized. The Rethinkers from New Orleans, LA will give the keynote address for the youth.

We still have need for work. We just put together a final to do list and we will be sending it our electronically to ask people for specific tasks.

If you know someone who is a good note taker put them in touch with Renee.

For each sector representative we ask for a short report out about what is going on in each sector for the first day of the summit. It should be very short, 2-3 paragraphs. Send reports to Phil by March 18.

7) Director's Report

8) Reports from Governmental Representatives

a. Department of Health and Wellness Promotion – Velonda Thompson not present

b. Executive Branch Report – Garry Bullock

Garry works for the mayor's office and represents council district 3. This spring the mayor will begin talking about community use of land. He was selling adjacent lots to community members. He will develop some mechanism of a long term lease to do treatment on and care for those lots. The initial concept is a lease. DFPC should give some thought to what they think the policy should look like and give thoughts to that process. The mayor has hired a planning director, Maurice Cox from Tulane University. Another round of side lot sales whenever the next round of city sales of land is. Want to make sure that people who have taken care of side lots are given preference. Establishment of block clubs or block captains in the neighborhood will have strong position on who will be allowed to use of lease land in the neighborhood.

Q: emphasizing community organizations. Have you given thought to citizen ownership of land?

A: the mayor is not supportive of people purchasing land that is not adjacent to the homeowner. As the new planning director gets on board the mayor's office may be able to work with special cases.

Q: is the lease available?

A: not yet, want to get through the side lot sale process yet.

Q: what are opportunities to advocate within the DLBA?

A: Garry will send us contact info for Terry Dean. There will also be series of district meetings, and that would be a good place to bring up the idea.

Q: is there a process for making special cases?

A: there is not a process yet. If we can take an example to make a case and try to creat a process we can make a case.

c. Legislative Branch Report – Kathryn Underwood

Kathryn is part of a group that is working to come up with standards for livestock for the state. The report is done and will be released on March 15. It will help launch us into coming up with provisions that will help city folks have land. Detroit Collaborative Design Center will come up with scenarios for different neighborhoods and different situations provided we secure the funding. Urban Livestock Workgroup has about 15 community members who keep livestock, and representatives from the city's government.

Kathryn is also working on legalizing food trucks and being able to park on mobile food unit ports. Right now it's not legal, and we want to be able to allow that in different parts of the city. We also want to be able to allow food trucks to park on the street. One of the controversial issues with food trucks is that one of the provisions is that food trucks can't be within certain distance of restaurants that sell the same type of food.

Anika: Look at Food Fort in Columbus Ohio.

Representative Rashida Tlaib is on the Agriculture Committee in state House of Representatives. She convened a group of people to talk about what we want in Detroit on state level, how we can get recognized on state level for the agriculture and food security work we are doing.

9) Next Meeting – April 14, 2015 Location TBD

We would like to have a meeting in the community in April. We are looking for a location and a community to partner with. We want to have meetings open and have meetings in different locations around the city so we can engage more with community members, and make our meetings more open and accessible to the communities.

10) Public Comments

Shirley Brown from Elder Law of Michigan, councils seniors on eating healthy.

Chef Cal is interested in what DFPC is doing.

Zaundra Wimberly, the third school is Western

Noam Kimelman, owner of Fresh Corner Café

Kadiri Senefer, DBCFSN

Renee Wallace, Doers Consulting and Food Plus Detroit

Medgar Clark, community member, glad to see committees moving forward, would like to serve on RAP committee

11) Announcements

Volunteer at Greenhouse Tues 5-7, Thur 4-6

D-Town Farm Volunteer Recruitment rally March 16 2-4 at DBCFSN, volunteer days will start the following Saturday, 3800 Puritan, on Twitter @dirtydtownfarmhandz

What's for Dinner lecture series, Jessica B. Harris, April 18 2-4 at Charles H. Wright Museum

Eastern Market Community Kitchen will be opening soon at Eastern Market. Looking for more chefs to work in kitchens

Posting kitchen manager position soon

GRP first seed distribution Thursday, March 19 5-7 pm at City Temple 8816 Grand River

12) Adjournment 7:45