



Detroit Food Policy Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

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

Eastern Market Corporation

Minutes

1) Welcome and Roll Call

In attendance: Phil Jones, Betti Wiggins, Willie Spivey, Kami Pothukuchi, Sandra Turner-Handy, Myra Lee, Suzette Olaker, Velonda Thompson, Dan Carmody (phone), Ashley Atkinson (phone), Kathryn Lynch Underwood, Roxanne Moore, Marilyn Nefer Ra Barber
Staff: Cheryl A. Simon, Kibibi Blount-Dorn
Guests: Renee Wallace – Chief Doer, John Ground Werks, Jenny Cummings Ground Werks, Donald Jones

2) Review and Acceptance of the April Meeting Minutes

Minutes accepted with corrections

3) Officer Elections/ Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee members are Ashley Atkinson, Dan Carmody, Betti Wiggins, and Marilyn Barber. The first task of the Nominating Committee is to recommend a slate of officers for the coming year, which runs from the end of this meeting until next May. We have a consensus on a slate:

Suzette Olaker, Chair

Jerry Ann Hebron, Vice Chair

Sandra Turner Handy, Secretary

Mimi Pledl, Treasurer

Slate of officers approved by consensus.

The Nominating Committee's next charge is to fill seats that will be open in November. The Coordinator's report has a list of the people who are up for re-election and the people who are not eligible to serve another term. Dan Carmody, Kami Pothukuchi, DeWayne Wells, and Nefer Ra Barber are limited from running again. It is an open process and we will post the information about nominations on our website. We are requesting that departing council members and others recommend people who would be good candidates to fill those seats.

Myra Lee suggested that there should be a seat representing youth on the council.

Q: Would this be a new seat or would it replace one of the current seats?

Q: Would this require a change in the bylaws?

A: We may need to change the bylaws, depending on what we decide.

There was a lengthy discussion about how to engage youth on the council. A couple of options are to add a seat and expand the number of board members to 22, or change one of the community at large seats to a youth seat.

B. Wiggins: I support what Myra said that we should engage the youth. My recommendation is that we should convert one of the existing seats rather than add an additional seat. We also need to define what qualifies as youth. Are we looking at K-12th grade or someone 18-24?

Roxanne Moore: I agree that we should change the designation of one of the Community at Large seats.

Sandra Turner Handy: How long are the terms? If we want them to serve for three years we should recruit someone who is about 15 so they can serve for the whole term.

C. Simon: Terms are three years, but I don't know if you can get a youth that young to commit to a three year term.

P. Jones: I suggest we refer this back to the Nominating committee to discuss and bring a proposal back to the board

B. Wiggins: the bylaws committee will need to address this, too.

C. Simon: The Executive Committee handles changes to the bylaws.

S. Olaker: We should also look at their affiliation with organizations that deal with youth, not just age.

P. Jones: Let's take five more minutes to generate some questions for the nominating committee to consider.

K. Pothukuchi: There are many organizations that send two youth when they have youth representatives so they can bounce ideas off of each other's and feel supported by each other.

B. Wiggins: We can also have people send questions by e-mails. We can send an invitation out to have people recommend youth participants so we can help to ensure their participation since we have meetings at 5:30 pm.

S. Olaker: We should also consider youth from Food Warriors who are younger than high school age, but who have demonstrated leadership in their organizations. There needs to be some sort of screening process.

B. Wiggins: When you have youth that are below a certain age, there are responsibilities for providing a chaperone, transportation, and other things.

P. Jones: Do we have a deadline to resolve this?

C. Simon: If we are going to change the bylaws, we have to send the proposed changes out before the council meeting where we will vote on those changes. If we want to vote on this at the July meeting then the Nominating Committee needs to meet before the next council meeting. The Nominating Committee needs to meet to develop the recommendation, it has to be reviewed by the Executive Committee to make a change to the bylaws, the changes to the bylaws have to be proposed at the council meeting, and the council has to have time (as stated in the bylaws) to review the proposed change before voting on the change.

A. Atkinson: It would be a good idea to meet as soon as possible since we also have to discuss the other seats that need to be filled.

B. Wiggins: I'm open May 23 all day, and I will serve lunch if we meet at Douglass Academy.

A. Atkinson and D. Carmody stated that they are both available 11:30-1

P. Jones: Where is the discussion about the process for recruiting someone?

S. Turner Handy: Would it be more effective to have the Executive Committee and the Nominating Committee meet together for this discussion?

P. Jones: My main concern is whether we feel like it or not, we are under a time crunch. We don't want to get to the end and have to open up another discussion. We should start thinking about the process to discuss organizations to ask for recommendation now.

Renee Wallace (guest) suggested: DBCFSN, Youth Food Justice Task Force, Detroit Food Justice Task Force, Keep Growing Detroit Youth Growing Detroit, Earth Works Youth Farm Stand, Neighbors Building Brightmoor, School Garden Collaborative, Freedom Freedom and Detroit Food Academy.

S. Olaker: We should ask for other recommendations to be sent by email

B. Wiggins: Agriculture Engineering program students should be considered.

M. Lee: What about MSU Extension and their youth program?

Willie Spivey: Marilyn's position and my position could be used to fill with a youth.

Marilyn's (Nefer Ra) seat will be open because she is term limited. The consensus from the group was that we want to keep W. Spivey on the council. This issue would still require change in the bylaws to make sure we keep the seat filled with youth members.

P. Jones: The Executive Committee and Nominating Committee will meet May 23 11:00 at Douglass Academy (formerly Murray Wright High School), 2001 West Warren.

4) Report from City Council Representative: Kathryn Lynch Underwood stated that she has been working with mayor's office to get land sales through for our growers. There are about 15 growers that should be hearing from them soon. It has to go through the land bank and the Emergency Manager.

5) Chairperson's Report

P. Jones expressed his welcome to the new executive committee. I would like to offer my help and support. I'd like to thank the council for letting me be here for these last two years. I care about this council and I want to see it move forward. We still have a lot of work to do. We have a community who needs our support, hard work, and passion. There are still a lot of issues and a lot of people in need. Our lives are affected by our food system.

6) Detroit Food 2014 Summit Debrief

R. Wallace reported that we have the notes, photos, reflective interviews, and flip charts from the keynote speech compiled. She suggested institutionalizing the process for facilitation at the summit. All of the information has been mapped to the workgroup(s) that are relevant to the

conversation. There is a possibility to flow from the information gathered at the summit to the work groups.

7) Coordinator's Report- See attached

C. Simon gave an update on fundraising. The DFPC has received a commitment from the Kellogg Foundation. We had a fundraising strategy meeting on the 28th. We strategized our short term and long term fundraising prospects over the next three years. Our primary prospect right now is the Kresge Foundation. We sent them a pre proposal in the fall. Cheryl sent an updated proposal this month and she will follow up with them. We submitted a proposal for the Spark Plug Foundation, and we will hear a decision in July. We met with the United Way to discuss the possibility of funding some projects.

Q: The AFPD foundation will they fund a specific project or will they fund the organization generally?

A: We don't know what they will fund yet. Mimi Pledl has offered to work with us on contacting them.

C. Simon reported that we also have an opportunity to apply for an AmeriCorp member through UM Dearborn's Public Allies Program. We will have to come up with a \$12,000 cost share and we will have a full time member for one year.

B. Wiggins: Did you apply to Food Corp?

C. Simon: We did not.

B. Wiggins: Food Corp likes programs where they can serve for a year. DPS Office of School Nutrition is getting two members. We may be able to work out a practicum where they spend three months at DFPC.

C. Simon also reported that she met with DeWayne Wells to discuss partnership funding for specific projects. The most obvious partnership will be to partner with DFFC on the follow up work for the Economic Impact Study.

K. Pothukuchi: When is the economic impact study coming out?

C. Simon: We aren't sure. It is my understanding that they are finalizing the report but we don't have a date.

8) Work Groups – Kibibi Blount Dorn

M. Lee reported that she as the Healthy Food Access work group chair and staff met with United Way last week to discuss the grant they gave us for the grocery store survey to be included in the Food Finder. Since Social Compact was not able to complete the website, we asked United Way to reallocate the grant to build the website. We also discussed the possibility to partner the Food Finder with the 2-1-1. The benefits of the Food Finder will be to have open sources of data for community residents and organizations. The food finder will have data on food resources like grocery stores, garden resources, emergency food, access to food benefits, food entrepreneurs and resources for food businesses, and other categories. We are having discussions about creating conversations between grocers and residents.

9) Reports from Governmental Representatives

a. Department of Health and Wellness Promotion – Dr. Velonda Thompson

The director and deputy director are preparing for the end of the fiscal year. IPH in the midst of preparing a proposal for renewal of its contract with the City of Detroit

C. Simon asked if IPH is being phased out. I was at another meeting earlier this month and a member of the group reported that IPH would no longer be contracted by the city.

V. Thompson: I have not heard anything about that.

B. Wiggins: We are in contract negotiation also. I got a non-renewal letter for our contract. I get one every year and then they renew the contract at the beginning of the next school year.

W. Spivey: What can we do to support public health in the city?

Velonda: I don't work for the actual DHWP. For the WIC program and looking at our numbers, we have been able to manage 97% of our case load. There is always more we can do. We know if they are Medicaid eligible they are eligible for WIC. Not only in WIC, the other public health services that IPH is providing services for are doing a lot to expand their services, and not only relying on grants.

K. Pothukuchi: How are the caseloads determined?

V. Thompson: The federal government determines the number of people that will require services. Our number is 31,774 clients per month for WIC.

B. Wiggins: We have seen decreases in obesity, and because WIC cannot be used to buy any junk food, do you think this has had an effect on obesity rates?

V. Thompson: Yes, WIC is a nutrition program. WIC has been doing constant client surveys, and people are being helped to understand about making good food choices.

B. Wiggins: Is WIC part of Child Nutrition Reauthorization process?

K. Pothukuchi: SNAP and WIC are automatically reauthorized; they don't require reauthorization every year.

M. Lee: Is the food safety service under IPH?

V. Thompson: Yes

M. Lee: There is information on the website, but it isn't easy to understand where to go with concerns about food safety. What is the process, and how many inspectors are there?

V. Thompson: Send me an email with your questions and I will forward it to the right person.

S. Turner Handy: The state is in charge of inspecting grocery stores. Does IPH inspect lead levels?

V. Thompson: There is a lead prevention program. There are some changes to what programs are in charge of what activities. I can direct you to the person who is responsible for the lead program.

b. Legislative Branch Report – Kathryn Underwood reported earlier in the meeting

c. Executive Branch Report- We are waiting for a new appointee.

10) Next Meeting – June 10, 2014

11) Public Comments

Don Jones stated that there is a school site that DPS is offering to lease/sell. KGD helped me to put together a lease. I am meeting with DPS to negotiate putting that land to use at Robinson School for growing food. At the public meeting held yesterday, we had seven people there. Three were supportive of the project; three were ambivalent, and one was the architect who of course was in favor. We are putting together a vision statement for what that land will be doing on 20 years. B. Wiggins: DPS pays millions of dollars in drainage fees on vacant land, and offering to cover the drainage fees for the storm water will help you to acquire the land.

R. Wallace expressed thanks to Phil for his leadership. Thank you and congratulation to the new executive committee.

S. Turner Handy– Thank you to Betti Wiggins. I always talk about our project at Denby High School and Betti is working with them to build raised beds, indoor growing areas, and provided adult size chairs. Betti is going to employ 100 kids from DPS and EAA for the summer. The job description will be up on the DPS website soon.

P. Jones – Thank you to our staff, Cheryl and Kibibi for all their work

12) Announcements

K. Pothukuchi: WSU Farmers Market will start Wednesday, June 4 11 am – 4 pm, and all Wednesdays till the end of October. Burda's Berries, LaBrosse Farms, and Mystic Kettle popcorn will join us as new vendors.

R. Wallace: October 17-19 is the Black Urban Farmers and Gardeners Conference in Detroit. Please share people that we can reach out to for the conference. There is an organizing team that is a wide cross section of folks that are working on the conference. Meet and Greet next Wednesday at 9pm at COLORS.

Thursday, May 29 12:30-4 Food Plus will have project team meetings at MSU Center.

V. Thompson: June 6 Open House at IPH with a meet and greet at Administrative Office located at 1400 Woodbridge.

Sustainable Business Forum, Bert's Marketplace, May 22, \$20

COLORS, Food Lab, and KGD hosting Farm Field tasting tours at Plum Street. June 7, July 26, Sept 27 10-12

Annual Urban Garden Tour is Wednesday, August 6, 5pm

Hot Crops Distribution Thursday 5-7 and Saturday 1-3

EarthWorks Fresh Market starts May 22 11-2

13) Adjournment 7:34pm