



Detroit Food Policy Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 12, 2015
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Genesis HOPE CDC
Minutes

- 1) Welcome and Roll Call
In attendance: Suezette Olaker, Kathryn Underwood, Mimi Pledl, Eileen Haraminac, Velonda Thompson, Kirk Mayes, Jelani Barber, Jerry Ann Hebron, Marisol Teachworth, Tyler Chatman, Ashley Atkinson (phone), Phil Jones (phone)
Suezette welcomed council members and guests
- 2) Welcome from Host
Host Genisi HOPE is a non-profit organization that works to make sure everyone has access to healthy food. They have a sprouts program for youth, farmers market, and youth corps that delivers programs in schools. Genesis HOPE also has a community kitchen program.
- 3) Review of agenda and remarks from the Chair
- 4) Review and Acceptance of the April Meeting Minutes
Minutes accepted with corrections
- 5) Executive Committee Elections
The nominating committee met, and would like to recommend that all the current executive committee members be reelected to their current seats.
Suezette Olaker – Chair
Jerry Ann Hebron – Vice-Chair
Sandra Turner-Handy – Secretary
Mimi Pledl - Treasurer
The current executive committee members accept the nominations.
Motion to accept current slate and second
Approved unanimously.
- 6) How to connect to DFPC
Presentation is attached
We held a retreat in February and restructured our meeting groups. We formed four standing committees: Education and Engagement, Research and Policy, Nominating, Fund Development. Current subcommittees of the Research and Policy committee include: Ag Advocates, Economic Impact Study, Food Security. Current subcommittees of the Education and Engagement committee include: Communications and Technology, Healthy Food Access, Schools and Institutions

The Fund Development Committee will develop and implement the fund development plan for the organization. The Nominating Committee is active May –November, they review and recommend nominees for open seats on the council.

Our Executive Director is Winona Bynum, and our Program Manager is Kibibi Blount-Dorn. We have recently hired a research team and grant writer. The Research and Policy Committee and Education and Engagement Committee are the point of engagement for community members. The next Education and Engagement Committee meeting is May 20 6pm@EMC, and the next Research and Policy Committee meeting is May 26 5:30 @ EMC.

7) Survey and Community Conversation

Q: How are the voices of the people who are not here heard?

A: this survey is prelude to a deeper engagement effort we will have this summer. We will be partnering with community organizations to hold listening sessions and engagement activities. This survey asks some preliminary questions, so if you see other questions we should be asking please share them with us. We will be updating the food security policy, and these engagement events will help inform the updated policy.

Discussion: Questions should be more open ended, and should ask about impressions for people who have not been in the area long.

Q: How will the information be processed?

A: The Research and Policy committee and the Research team will be using the information to update the city's Food Security Policy. DFPC was instrumental in developing the current policy, but some things have changed since this policy was adopted.

Q: Is the policy a food policy or a food security policy?

A: It's a food security policy, but it addresses more than emergency food. It encompasses many sectors of the food system. This survey is intended to gather some preliminary information, and to open up discussion.

Forgotten Harvest in partnership with Gleaners is going to be releasing a survey of the people they serve, and they may be able to incorporate some of the questions we are looking to answer in their survey.

Q: are there other specific questions that we should be asking?

Ask questions that touch on specific elements and sectors of the food system?

Informational paragraph that gives information about what current policy is and where weak points are.

Something around people's personal values around food. How are people thinking about food and what do they value.

You could add questions about how people value cooking, eating together, and health.

Q: what do you want to accomplish in getting the information. Why do you ask the question how familiar are you with DFPC?

The question was in there because we want to understand how familiar people are with DFPC because people need to know what DFPC is before we can have a greater impact on the food system and increasing food security.

There should be more information before the question, and with easier to understand language.

Q: should there be a question about food safety?

What are you referring to when you say food safety.

Food should be safe to eat and unspoiled. This also includes how to handle food at home.

There should be an effort to put each section in context.

Kathryn and Eileen can review drafts of our updated policy.

8) Committee Reports

a. Research and Policy Committee – Sandra Turner-Handy

Sandra Turner-Handy is not able to be at the meeting this evening. We met in April and discussed the structure of the committee. We will talk more about the priorities for the committees and other people we will invite to participate in the committees.

b. Education and Engagement Committee – Phil Jones

We met in April and discussed holding a fundraising event in the fall. We will come to the next meeting with ideas for what that event should be.

9) Director's Report

The full report is attached.

The staff has been working on developing ways to accomplish our work in the most effective way, developing our capacity for fund development. We have been meeting regularly with our grant writer, Barbara Stevenson. We will be developing a fundraising plan by the end of the month. Winona is participating in a fund development mentoring program. We have a few meetings with funders coming up this month.

Winona has been working on developing our implementation plan

The Nominating committee met and discussed the executive committee nominations, council nominations in November, and plans for orientation for new members.

The staff has been meeting with the coordinators of the Fresh Rx program to discuss ways we can partner to make the program more sustainable. Currently the program is grant funded, and they are exploring additional funding plans to expand the program.

The food bank community has been exploring ways to demonstrate the impact of fruits and vegetables on health.

There might be a university that is interested in studying this also.

The challenge is getting enough data to show a correlation, and getting doctors to be willing to say prescribing healthy food has an impact on health.

You should be looking for a university partner to help develop reliable research methods to gather the data.

Winona attended the Kellogg Food and Community gathering and the theme was making sure equity is incorporated in our work.

Winona met with Nick Leonard, and he works with people **who**

This past month the staff attended the Scaling Up the Food System discussion, the annual southeast meeting of environmental groups, the national arts strategy talk about capacity building, and the local collaborative modeling workshop. Four council members are planning to attend the Uprooting Racism Planting justice training this weekend.

Staff members will attend the Reclaiming Vacant Properties conference May 19-21. Winona will attend the White house community actions summit June 3 in Washington D.C.

We are continuing to look for additional office space, and we have been talking to other organizations about sharing office space.

Discussion: Who have you talked to?

A: the National Women in Agriculture Association and the Detroit Food and Fitness Collaborative. Is there anything available in Eastern Market? A: Not any time soon.

10) Reports from Governmental Representatives

a. Department of Health and Wellness Promotion

There are no major new developments right now. DHWP is preparing for one WIC clinic move from its current E. 7 mile location to the Samaritan Center on E. Conner. The move

is projected for July. The relocation of the Administrative offices is planned for late in the summer. The department is still in the process of site selection.

b. Legislative Branch Report

Hoophouses – there has been a lot of confusion about getting permits for hoophouses and greenhouses. KGD have been working with Kathryn, contacted the state because the state building code is what the city code is based on. State said hoophouses, greenhouses, and structures for animals don't require a permit. Kathryn sent info to head engineer at Building Safety and Engineering, and she hopes that will make things easier going forward.

City Council approved MOU and land transfer agreement between city and Land Bank Authority. There was language: land bank will facilitate sale or short or long term lease for urban ag use. At invitation of Detroit City Council the DLBA will participate in community meetings. Council member Castaneda-Lopez asked for the language to be stronger. There are still some policy issues that need to be put in place with how the DLBA sells land. Kathryn will attend the DLBA when she can. Suggests we invite DLBA to come and give a presentation about what the MOU and land transfer agreement will mean.

Kathryn has been looking at using animals to graze (sheep do more than goats). There is a program in Cleveland, Urban Shepherds, and they teach people how to have sheep that graze. They will have a training May 16. The Executive Director has offered to do training in Detroit if there is enough interest.

Q: where are the sheep coming from?

A: not sure where the sheep came from. For this program you have to get a certificate to be able to do this.

Discussion: Urban Shepherds did a training in the Brightmore community, and the sheep came in from sheep farmers in Michigan. The plan was to sell the sheep to halal butchers. Mixing in goats will take care of the harder plants that sheep will not eat. CPC is looking at sheep and goats to allow in the agriculture ordinance to try some things out. The ordinance will include chicken, duck, goats, rabbits, sheep, honey bees. Produce Safety Alliance Train the Trainer course June 2-3, science based on farm food safety and training program for on farm workers. The course covers GAP training. \$165 certified trainer, \$150 for lead trainer.

Q: Water for urban agriculture, is there any discussion going on about it?

A: This question has been raised at DWSD, so it is on the radar.

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

12) Public Comments

The information that was shared about equity as a value, scaling up in the food system. Is it possible to put the information on the website so we can get more information on those topics? Is there policy work that needs to happen to support the Fresh Prescription program?

A: the major need currently is for sustainable funding to continue the program.

Tamika Martin: what brought me to the meeting was the statement of values on the flyer. If you add it to the survey that may help people understand who you are. The survey should be kept to

one page. There is a grocery store across the street that I don't go to because the prices are too high. I have the ability to go somewhere else, but some of my neighbors do not.

Gwen: I don't fully understand how the council operates? There are some staff and volunteers? Is this a council meeting where you get things done? How are youth involved?

A: We have a youth representative because we want to have more youth

In the summer our youth programs many youth are involved in the garden and discuss food justice. Perhaps one day a group from DFPC could come down to the market and talk with youth participants.

Jeff Row: new resident of Detroit, and student at Wayne State. Interested in getting involved in food policy council, was involved in food policy council in Portland.

NeferRa: previous member (founding member) of DFPC. We are relatively new, and there's a lot to do. Concerned with food policy and food sovereignty in Detroit.

13) Announcements

Innovations in Collaborative Modeling Conference – there is a track specifically for community people and around food security in Detroit. Scholarships available, talk to Renee asap if you would like to attend. June 4-5 at MSU.

Food Justice and Peace Workshop hosted by MSU food workgroup this weekend at MSU.

University of Michigan sponsoring 2 Food Sovereignty symposium May 28-29, it includes panelists from all over. Local Struggles Global Wednesday, May 27 discussion in Detroit
Slow Food Detroit Central City will do ethnic market tours, they are looking for folks from Asian and Hispanic markets to host series.

Hot Crop Thursday 5-7, Sat 1-3 at Earthworks

Oakland Ave Farmers Market opens June 6, 11-3, container planting and annual exchange.

Uprooting Racism Planting Justice Training, May 15-17, Michigan and Trumbull.

Eat Safe Fish Program discusses fish and the food system, and has information about fish from the Detroit River. They are doing some research on the health effects of fish from the Detroit River and they would like to give a presentation to DFPC when they have completed their study.

The first meeting in 2015 of the Michigan Local Food Council Network will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at the Surplus Store/Recycling Center at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. Registration will open at 10:00 a.m., with the meeting beginning at 10:30 a.m. and concluding at 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. The MSU Surplus Store and Recycling Center is located at 468 Green Way, just off Farm Lane.

14) Adjournment 7:58