



New Haven Food Policy Council

Meeting Minutes January 16th, 2013

Attendees:

Council members: Monique Centrone-Stefani, Tagan Engel, Anika Johnson, Frank Mitchell, Diana Richter, Alycia Santilli, Maria Tupper

Affiliate and community members: Catherine Bradshaw, Laura Mattaliano, Caty Poole, Sarah Tracy-Wanck, Billy Bromage, Cara Donovan, Joel Tolman, Sharon Taylor, Justin Elicker, Brad Armstrong, Rachel Gilroy, Bill Ruffeth, Shannon Raider, Kate Ballantine, Ellen Pendergast

Food Action Plan

- Discussed process and potential plan to submit FAP to Board of Aldermen/committees for resolution of support, or other approach. Matt Smith, Mayor's Liaison to BOA, was invited to attend meeting but was not able to make it due to snow. Justin Elicker, Alderperson, filled in.

Tagan stated that the original plan was to present FAP to Board of Aldermen for resolution of support, identify which components of the FAP they need to vote on (zoning changes, ordinances, etc.) and then come back to them after fleshing out implementation plans for a vote on those issues. Also, NHFPC to suggest directives to mayor's office regarding its top priorities for issues that do not need BOA vote. Tagan and Alycia met this week with Sean Matteson, City of New Haven Chief of Staff, who expressed concern with submitting the FAP as a whole because it is vast and the BOA may want to take it in many directions. He suggested that it might be helpful to submit it in phases, or as a whole but with Phase 1 implementation plans identified. When asked for his advice, Justin stated that there is some risk in presenting it as a whole. This is an opportunity to educate the public and city officials as to why the FAP is important; BOA might overlook the big picture and spend time crafting specific details. We want the endorsement of the plan as a whole to come from the city but we are also concerned with getting specific things implemented either through votes or directives. While the FAP is not controversial as a broad document about food system change, Tagan and Justin noted that funding for its priorities vs. other city issues may be challenging, and that there are details around land use, zoning, and the healthy meals initiative, for example, which, when we dig into the details, may have some conflicts to work out. BOA already has priorities for the city and wants to get things done – we need to present the FAP in the context of the BOA and City's priorities (as we did in the writing of the Plan). There are so many ideas and strategies in FAP – which are going to be done right away? Alycia suggested perhaps a hybrid approach – request support of whole plan but pull out things that are actionable in a year's time, a Phase I implementation plan. Justin to find out about individual alders' interests, to get their feedback and support. Tagan noted that we did reach out to all of the alders during the summer/early fall and around the Summit, but many have not read the FAP yet, so it is worth doing more outreach. Justin stated that holding a workshop with BOA is common practice. Justin suggested that we meet with Jorge Perez, president of the BOA, for advice on this process. Workshops are typically committee-hosted, probably Human Services or Community Development in this case. Information session with alders to get their feedback, a half-hour meeting after BOA meeting 1st/3rd Monday of month. Ask Al Lucas which meeting would be preferable based on meeting agendas (some go very late). Tagan, Justin, Monique, Alycia, Anika, expressed interest in attending meeting with Jorge Perez; Frank D. to be invited to attend also.

- Council discussed and voted on final draft of FAP; changes were previously distributed via email and at meeting for review. Vote on FAP passed with six members; one vote against, reserving comment.

Working Groups

- Tagan noted that she and Alycia determined through City Hall that NHFPC can make public statements around food and policy-related issues (e.g., Farm Bill, GMO labeling); this is considered advocacy, not lobbying. In fact, City Hall encourages that kind of activity – run it by them first but generally okay with them, and encouraged.
 - Update of each Working Group from chair /council member representative – see attachment.
 - Food Assistance -- Billy B. Working on Food Assistance Resource Guide; how we might advocate around Farm Bill due to impact on food assistance programs; how the health dept. policies affect donations; SNAP. Currently 15 or so active members in group.
 - Cooking & Food Education – Cara. Working to increase Cooking Matters programs via United Way Women’s Initiative grant. Looking for sites to hold programs, sites to begin hosting programs and volunteers. Plan to develop an on-line calendar resource for all cooking/food education events. Would like to host a kickoff event with Cooking Matters and United Way Women’s Initiative – would be inclusive of all local cooking education programs, beyond CM. Working to support all cooking education programs with curriculum, volunteers, etc. 15-20 people/meeting. Cara to send criteria for host site out to group – Diana stated DESK is interested.
 - Urban Agriculture – Maria T. Some confusion about meeting dates. The group is trying to focus on a high level priority for all urban ag efforts: “get more people growing more food.” The group is interested in education, getting people learning about how to set up gardens and ongoing maintenance. Looking for ways to get people together to learn more, grow more and more variety.
- Tagan – to clarify – Urban Agriculture WG consists of community/backyard gardens and school gardens. Economic Development WG includes agricultural business and composting. Lots of crossover. Meet at same time but separately.
- Economic Development – Tagan E. Intern is conducting research on zoning/permits/regulations that might be prohibitive to entrepreneurs or businesses trying to start a food business. Meeting with city office of Econ Dev to follow today’s meeting.
- Compost – Rachel G. Looking for land, big and small. How to create compost in ways conducive to urban environments. Compost education. Sherill Baldwin of CT DEP is assisting with this group.
- School Food – Tagan E. – Focusing on wellness plan implementation. Group of students from Youth Unleashed involved in WG and one priority the group raised is forming an advisory group with accountability.
- Functioning of Working Groups – what’s working, what’s not working
 - Tagan – Working Groups need support and guidance; Council members need to educate themselves on corresponding issues in FAP and lead their group, help them move toward change. Maria T. – Working Group attendance grew out of Food Summit but there are other people in community that need to be pulled into the groups. Tagan – that effort needs to be part of the process and is an explicit task of the Working Group Chairs and NHFPC members. Billy B. – his group conducted a network process, 15-minute activity helped to grow priority list of who should be involved in their work. All groups should do this. Anika J. – getting to morning meetings continues to be a problem. Some groups are attempting to alternate day and night meetings. Diana – while involved in Structure Committee meetings, can’t make WG meetings; fortunately Billy is keeping everyone informed through email and google docs. Monique C-S. – so much crossover between groups, people moving around between groups, disruptive in the first meeting. Hopefully this will work itself out over time. Catherine B. – at end of each meeting, make sure to review tasks, who will do what, when, next steps, to keep people involved, active. Use google docs to stay up to date. So much interconnection among groups, potential for duplication. Too much responsibility rests on the WG chairs – need to share responsibility among group members.
 - Tagan E. – Strategies of FAP are starting point; we don’t want groups to start over from scratch. Want to get things done! Could policy implementation committee that we’ve discussed previously assist with this? We need guidance to marry the work to FAP, determine what is most feasible, and move it forward. Diana R. – policy is the work of the whole council, we should not create a separate committee for it. Monique C-S. – each group’s council member representative should keep group on track, focused. Tagan E. – agreed, but that means all council members have to come to WG meetings and to FPC meetings, which isn’t happening. Alycia S. – could FAP committee identify focus for each group? Then set a timeline for priority list – by April, for example. Catherine B. – we could put a timeframe on the work, have members do homework. Council members have to be active with chairs, Tagan and Ellen P. Diana R. -- concrete policy recommendations should be coming back from WG. Billy B. – his group is programmatic rather than policy-oriented; service providers in his group. Tagan E. – policy could be recommendations/directives to mayor’s office about what has to happen at city level, not necessarily things alders have to vote on. Policy is not just about legal language to be voted on,

recommendations that impact city action and services/programs to address food system change are also a type of policy change. Alycia S. – Policy could mean zoning changes, advocacy. Monique C-S. – these are broader interpretations of policy. Catherine B. – what about previous policy committee conversation. FAP is action-oriented but how do we turn that into policy? Decided that smaller FAP committee will continue to meet to determine how to bring it to the alders. Monique C-S. -- this is Part 2 of FAP. FAP committee to meet weekly or bi-weekly for next couple of months. Tagan, Alycia, Catherine Bradshaw, Caty Poole, Cara Donovan and Monique to form this committee – check with Rob Friedman as to whether she wants to continue with FAP committee.

Communications

- City Website – up to date
- City Kitchen blog - vehicle for promotion of Council, partner activities, Working Groups, food movement at large
Tagan -- Caty Poole is interested in working on this – are any council members interested in being involved? Want to make sure we can keep it up on ongoing basis before we launch it. Caty Poole – should the deadline for WG be target for blog kickoff? Tagan/Ellen to send blog link out to entire group so they can see what it is. Copyright issue exists with City Kitchen ~ NY Times -- change name! Ellen P. offered to head up blog committee on volunteer basis, at least to get it off the ground. Committee: Ellen P., Joel Tolman, Caty Poole, Kate Ballantine, Ashley Kremser.
- Ellen P. to send out link to google docs to entire group again.
- Ellen P. to add council members and chairs to google docs share list.

By-laws retreat scheduling – Thursday, Feb. 21, 10-1 appears to be the best date/time for everyone. Council to vote on bylaws at following month’s NHFPC meeting.

Emergency Food Provider Proposal -- Update letter to go out to council for vote. Diana R. to send to Billy B. for his input first.

Council member seat update

- It’s not clear if we have a 12th seat or not. Mix up with Mayor’s office. In order to have youth seat, not sure if we can add a new seat or have to replace an existing one. May require an ordinance change. Youth seat could be affiliate rather than member.

Announcements/other updates

- Cara D. is conducting a food security survey.
- Frank M. suggested a field trip to the Museum of Natural History, NYC for *Our Global Kitchen* exhibit.
- Anika J. recommended CEIO’s Beyond Diversity workshop – focus on culture, respect – very worthwhile. Tagan noted that CEIO hosts other valuable workshops and seminars. Ellen P. to ask Sonja to send out calendar of CEIO events.

February 2013 Meeting Dates for Working Groups:

Cooking & Food Education	Monday, February 25 th	6:30-8:00pm	City Hall
Economic Development/Food Business	Thursday, February 14 th	8:30am-9:30am	City Hall
Agricultural Business committee	Thursday, February 14 th	8:30am-9:30am	City Hall
Composting committee	Thursday, February 7 th	6:00-7:30pm	City Hall
Food Assistance (formerly Emergency Food)	Friday, February 22 nd	9:00-10:30am	City Hall
School Food	Thursday, January 24 th	6:00 -7:30pm	Neighborhood Housing Services
Urban Agriculture:	Thursday, February 14 th	8:30am-9:30am	City Hall
Community/Backyard Gardens committee			
School Gardens committee			

Next Food Policy Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 20th – 8:00-9:45am
City Hall Meeting Room #1
Contact: Staff@NHFoodPolicyCouncil.org