



# New Haven Food Policy Council

## Meeting Minutes

March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### Items Voted on:

1. **BY-LAWS, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY FPC**
2. **COUNCIL POSITIONS FILLED**
  - a. **Treasurer –Diana Richter nominated. Council voted and approved.**
  - b. **Secretary – Monique Centrone Stefani. Council voted and approved.**
  - c. **Vice Chair - Anika Thrower nominated. Council voted and approved.**
  - d. **Chair – Alycia Santilli nominated. Council voted and approved.**

### Attendees:

Council members: Monique Centrone-Stefani, Tagan Engel, Roberta Friedman, Diana Richter, Alycia Santilli, Anika Thrower, Maria Tupper

Affiliate and community members: Catherine Bradshaw, Billy Bromage, Cara Donovan, Caty Poole, Luray Shepard, Robin Golden, Ashley Kremser, Cynthia Parker, Susan Monroe, Rachel Ziesk, Rick Durance, Shannon Raider, Ellen Pendergast

### Recap of Board of Alders Briefing, Monday, March 18th

- Maria – The entire Board of Aldermen attended the briefing -- meeting well attended. Aldermen were receptive, excited and supportive. Big question for Alders was how to prioritize actions. Seven alders signed up to meet with the FPC to determine next steps, projects to address Alders expressed a particular interest in school food. Funding for FSD position is a major issue. Tagan indicated that while funding is an issue, if we can come up with matching funds, there may be a chance to find money at the City.
- Monique: we should leverage that to gain support for items that don't need funding, re-zoning.
- Question – what is happening with replacement of School Food Director. Tagan indicated that there is an interim director until April. Audit in process has delayed filling the position. Tagan will follow up with NHPS on plans for permanent director position.
- Next steps – Policy advancement committee to meet to determine implementation priorities, share them with Council, follow with a meeting with the group of alders.
- Tagan – Alders asked how they could help. Suggestion made that, given upcoming mayoral election, we might host a Food Forum, where mayoral candidates talk about their approach to food issues. Tagan – showing that we can bring out a constituency will impress the importance of food policy in their campaign. Include cooking, food growing. DESK offered as a location – not open on Friday, Saturday, so those would be good days for this.

### NHFPC By-laws

- Recap of By-laws Retreat on February 21<sup>st</sup>  
Monique – Structure Committee recommended bringing by-laws for Council's vote. By-Laws process/development reviewed with Council. Opened forum for further discussion. No comments received during meeting.
- **CALLED FOR VOTE ON THE BY-LAWS, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY FPC.** Important step for council.
- Next steps: implementation, operations. Tagan – this includes how do we do the work we do; process that we agree upon. Responsibilities of chair, vice chair, Food Systems Director. Structure Committee will continue to meet to think on implementation but members may likely change. Determined that Annual Meeting will take place in February but implementation will take place on an on-going basis between now and then.
- Affiliate membership – individuals vs. organizations? Difficult to include some individuals and not others -- don't want to be exclusive. Determined that Affiliate status will be for organizations only. Have to determine process as to how Affiliate membership happens, who is designated to represent the organization, what their responsibilities are. Will identify another process to acknowledge individuals beyond affiliate membership.

**Discussion and vote on new Council positions:** Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary & Treasurer

- Robin – these are corporate officers. New Haven doesn't have rules for these roles so we developed our own. Monique reviewed the roles of the officers as detailed in the By-laws. Robin – the vice chair role should be viewed as a succession plan, “chair in waiting,” so that the next chair is constantly being groomed.
- Tagan – role of Chair is to develop monthly meeting agenda, determine who to invite, maintain an overview of the work. Officer positions are being established and clarified in order to split up the necessary tasks so the Council can be sustainable and the work is at a reasonable level for volunteers. The next meeting of the Structure Committee will flesh out details of Chair, Vice Chair positions. Transition from Tagan – she will be immediate past chair for the transition period. Maria – past president having an ongoing relationship in a volunteer organization is invaluable because otherwise a successful transition is not possible. The extent to which we can make that formal would be advantageous.
- **Nominations and Vote**
  - **Treasurer – budgets, grant writing, etc. Nominated Diana – Council voted and approved.**
  - **Secretary – oversee meeting minutes, council members' attendance, terms. Nominated Monique – Council voted and approved.**
- Chair/vice – Alycia as chair, Anika as vice chair? Anika has reservations about duties and responsibilities. Can't do daytime work due to her job. Catherine – in Tagan's continuing role and her tandem position at CitySeed, chair will have partnership with her, ability to share role, lighten the load of the chair. Robin – this is a time of transition, more likely that next chair will also have a full time job, very unusual that someone could devote as much time as Tagan has. Alycia will have more ability to be involved due to the nature of her job. Anika could help to determine the vice chair role.
  - **Anika nominated as Vice Chair – Council voted and approved.**
  - **Alycia nominated as Chair – Council voted and approved.**
- Press release – Caty Poole to draft. Include work of WG and new bylaws, officials. Catherine – should we have a gathering to celebrate? Pot luck.

#### **National Conference of Mayors**

- Potential participation in Food Policy Task Force  
This Task Force is for food policy directors – Tagan spoke to them and we can send someone because we are trying to implement a Food Systems Director and part of the Task Force's function is to help foster such a position in this city. Tagan is the logical person to be this representative as she would be the support person to city position and has the knowledge from the development of the FAP. Caty – we can learn so much from this national group, many informational resources available. Maria – we stand to benefit from this kind of networking, not reinventing the wheel. Monique – new mayor? Food forum, etc., but how does this fit into it? Tagan – our involvement in these actions can only help to push issue forward. Alycia -- affiliation with a national group is strategic. Tagan – we can find out who this position typically reports to, how are they funded, organized, etc.? Tagan will report back to Council on ongoing, regular basis. Catherine – ask them about a having a co-relationship with Alycia, as Chair.

#### **Working Groups**

- Brief update of each Working Group from chair/council member representative
- Food Assistance – Billy. Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup>. Resource guide in process – talked to Doug Hausladen regarding coordinating it with Street Sheet, Town Green Special Services list of city resources. Alycia wants to understand more about format, sustainability of list. Billy indicates FAWG is committed to maintaining it; intent to put it online – Infoline, blog links, etc. Update re: Food Systems working group. How to announce it exists – hand it out at meals, in food bags, Food Bank to do as extension of what they already do. Targeted toward those who need emergency food, providers (e.g., WIC) and food donators. In Spanish also. Will screen for literacy levels. Finalized Farm Bill letter sent to Rosa DeLauro and posted it on CT Food System Alliance in form of lesson on Farm Bill advocacy letter, and sent it to emergency food providers around New Haven. Letter about electricity restoration for emergency food providers sent to Rick Fontana.
- Urban AG – Maria. Thinking through the reorganization of community gardens. Community allies met to consider how to reorganize the Land Trust. Coordinator, space available, education programs, Land Trust + Common Ground coordination/joint effort, to get more education into different parts of community. Collaborations for grant proposals (Steve Pynn, Bob Halstead). Urban ag resource guide – Land Trust meetings are 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 6:30-8:00pm. Regarding, community farm in New Haven: should efforts be toward community farm or toward city to support existing farms was discussed. 47 community gardens but only two owned by Land Trust – could we get ownership of some of the leased plots – Chapel Seed, e.g. Is there a risk that city could pull the leases? Yes, they are only 5 year leases. Board of Aldermen can decide that, there are models in other cities.

- Economic Development – Tagan. Intern is meeting with people in city regarding permitting, obstacles, guidelines on how to start food businesses. Caty – focusing on simple graphic about developing mobile food businesses as a starting point.
- Cooking & Food Education – Cara. No meeting this month. Gateway CC not working out, not ready to collaborate yet – perhaps an option sometime in future. Looking at other spaces. Interest In food education at BOA briefing. They are meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays, next meeting is April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- School Food – Tagan. Focus on Farm to School grant, part of Tagan’s CitySeed job. Interviews with teachers, students, parents, officials. Parenting meetings.

**CT Humanities – Community Conversation**

- Community conversation is now set for May. Tagan, Maria and Jackie had a phone conversation with Amanda from CT Humanities. Talked about targeting the implementation of the Food Action Plan with city officials, alders, about next steps. Thinking on how to make it less work for us, more for them. Determine priorities, discuss them with BOA and then get CT Humanities involved.

**AmeriCorps Vista**

- Very likely that CitySeed will receive a Vista intern to focus on youth leadership and engagement in Food System work. Part of a group of Food Justice Vistas for CT. One person for New Haven; Tagan will supervise to support link with WG, youth groups to do NHFPC/FAP work. Start in fall. Will help with youth coalition on issues. End Hunger CT to get an intern as well, to develop SNAP outreach worker volunteers.

**ADDITIONAL TOPICS**

- **Ag Day** – in Hartford today; Tagan to participate re: FPC, FAP
- **Feed New Haven Blog**  
Meeting with George V. this week to make sure all changes have been made, etc.
- **CEIO presentation**  
On March 27<sup>th</sup>, CEIO has requested a 25-minute presentation by the FPC regarding what our work with them over the past year has been like. Objective is to connect various partners in New Haven who are working with them. All day meeting,

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS**

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- Mill River Economic Development meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup> –
- Just Food Conference 2013, NYC, March 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> -- <http://www.justfood.org/events/just-food-conference-2013>
- Michael Pollan, Saturday March 30<sup>th</sup> at Whitney Humanities Center.
- CARE – series of community forums on survey results through March/April. <http://care.yale.edu/index.aspx>
- Food Bank – Development Dept., trying to get film *A Place at the Table* to New Haven. Also, mobile pantry at Bella Vista for residents to start in April, and in May at St. Francis.
- At Barnard School on April 25<sup>th</sup> – Bioregional Group & Common Ground to host *Food Stamped*

**Upcoming Meeting Dates for Working Groups:**

Cooking & Food Education	Monday, April 15 <sup>th</sup>	6:00-7:30pm	City Hall
Economic Development/Food Business	Thursday, April 11 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am-10:00am	City Hall
Composting committee	TBD		
Food Assistance (formerly Emergency Food)	TBD		
School Food	Thursday, April 25 <sup>th</sup>	6:00pm-7:30pm	Neighborhood Housing Services
Urban Agriculture	Thursday, April 11 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am-10:00am	City Hall

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**Next Food Policy Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> – 8:00-9:45am**  
**City Hall Meeting Room #1**  
**Contact: [Staff@NHFoodPolicyCouncil.org](mailto:Staff@NHFoodPolicyCouncil.org)**