



New Haven Food Policy Council

Meeting Minutes

April 17th, 2013

Attendees:

Council members: Fred Cofrancesco, Tagan Engel, Diana Richter, Dawn Slade, Alycia Santilli

Affiliate and community members: Nicole Berube, Catherine Bradshaw, Billy Bromage, Jacquie Lewin, Sonja Ahuja, Jessica Simkins, Phyllis Haynes, Natalie Akers, Rick Mayer, Rick Durance, Jamilah Rasheed, Mark Ifill-Haney, Megan Ifill, Isa Bolotin, Brad Armstrong, Kate Ballentine, Ellen Pendergast

FAP Implementation Priorities

Recap of meeting with group of Aldermen, April 5th

- On April 5th the Policy Advancement Committee met with group of alders who expressed interest in continuing to work with NHFPC on the Food Action Plan at the March 18th briefing. The purpose of the meeting was to begin to prioritize the actionable items within the Food Action Plan. Present aldermen were Justin Elicker, Doug Hausladen and Adam Marchand; NHFPC members were Alycia and Tagan. The issue that the aldermen seemed most passionate about was school food. Aldermen committed to initiate relationship-building with other aldermen around FAP issues. Seven other Alders expressed interested in the FAP implementation at briefing. Key obstacle to a follow-up meeting are scheduling difficulties, so individual outreach and follow up is important.

Next steps for FAP implementation

- The meeting with the aldermen was successful in that we obtained guidance about which pieces of the plan the alders are interested in. Next steps are to
- continue to follow up with the aldermen to move the FAP ahead. This will be done through the Policy Advancement Committee (PAC). Others interested in joining the PAC – Diana, Dawn and Megan Ifill.

Plans for Food Forum with Mayoral candidates

- There are currently five declared candidates for the mayoral primary race in early September – several public forums/debates are already scheduled. The Democracy Fund is hosting three public forums; the first is on May 7th and is focused on social issues, the second is in June and responds to the question – What makes a street safe? The third will be in late August/early September and will be televised on WTNH. Doug Hausladen is collecting questions for the June debate via his website.
- Tagan has had initial informal conversations with three of the candidates/campaign managers re: the FAP – Justin Elicker, Gary Holder-Winfield and Henry Fernandez. FPC would like to meet with each candidate individually and provide them with an agenda/fact sheet of food policy items. Doug Hausladen commented that the candidates likely have very little awareness of food as an issue or why it's important – big opportunity for educating them. Doug noted that another strategy is to create a private scorecard for candidates around food and publicly announce the results – good way to get media interest.
- Alycia noted that CARE is also talking about hosting candidates' forum – framing it around health. Tagan stated that it's important to remember that food is not just about health – it's about economic development, agriculture, etc. Catherine agreed – have to work hard to clarify all the connections to food, not just health. Also a concern that there are so many health-related issues, we have to keep the focus on food so that people don't get sidetracked. Megan Ifill remarked that we should be specific about the impacts of food issues at the grassroots level, to the people who will be voting.
- Group agreed that the FPC should host a public forum with all declared candidates in late June or early July. FPC has proven that we have developed a large following, which is what matters to political candidates and will help to ensure their attendance. In an effort to combine efforts and increase attendance, the focus will be on food with a health component. This could have a great impact – if there is political will, candidates will support it.
- People interested in working on Candidate's Forum – Jacquie, Megan, Tagan, Catherine, Doug, Jessica, Ellen – maybe Anika (not present, will check with her).

NHFPC Administration

Summary of Structure Committee meeting, April 4th

- At March NHFPC meeting, Council voted on and passed the new by-laws. Diana reported that the Structure Committee met on April 4th to determine how to begin implementing and operationalizing the by-laws. Identified an agenda of priorities.
- Ellen is developing a schedule of activities as outlined by the by-laws; Diana is meeting with Nicole on fiduciary items.
- Next meeting Thursday, April 25th at 11:30am

Summary of NHFPC officers' meeting, April 9th

- New officers met on April 9th to plan transition of responsibilities.
- Developing job descriptions for officers and staff.

Council to vote on budget allocation to continue NHFPC Staff position.

- Nicole stated that the NHFPC had \$14,000 that it received from the city, of which approx. \$7,000 has been spent. The money is allocated from the mayor's discretionary fund and it is not clear when/if we will continue to get it. The question is, do we want to use those funds to pay Ellen while we come up with ways to get funding for other work?
- We don't have a quorum so there can't be a vote. Tagan stated that the Council voted previously to use \$2,500 of these funds to support the staff position; suggested that we do that again for now, and vote on the use of the balance of the funds at the May meeting.

Working Groups

Brief update of each Working Group from chair /council member representative

- Cooking & Food Education – Tagan. The NHFPC, CitySeed and Global Local Gourment made a joint proposal to the Health Department for funds for cooking classes. Obtained \$5,000 for cooking classes/train the trainer program, in churches, community centers, etc. Looking for kitchen spaces – at the new Grove space, churches, etc., and for skilled cooks – “sage gourmets” -- to hold, go through training program. Festival of Arts & Ideas – coming up with ideas for pop up villages – mobile markets, booth for audio recording of food memories, etc. Cooking Matters – have identified six/seven sites for cooking classes. Cooking Matters is still assessing the full list of sites where they will hold workshops this year. Promotion – planning a launch of citywide cooking education events. Screening of “Soul Food Junkies” in conjunction with Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and Byron Hurt, director. Catherine noted that measurement of training and other efforts is important – numbers of people affected, impact, etc. – develop metrics to support future funding.
- Food Business – Brad. Intern is meeting with people in city regarding permitting, obstacles, guidelines on how to start small food businesses. Developing simple infographics as a starting point.
- Composting – Fred. New Haven Farms is starting a bicycle program to pick up compost, will create jobs.
- Food Assistance – Billy. Group has merged with Emergency Food Council, so attendance and impact are up. Working on comprehensive Street Sheet update with Doug Hausladen, to include SNAP, WIC, food pantries, soup kitchens. Working with Infoline so to make sure it is updated, with help from CT Food Bank. Incorporating SNAP screening info on Infoline. Farm Bill advocacy letter was sent to Rep. DeLauro, follow up in process. Tagan noted that WG may want to contact Community Plates in Fairfield county – leftover food from restaurants. Also Community Foundation may have small amount of funding re: emergency food to support WG.
- School Food –Megan Ifill. Trying to get better school meals, more appealing, healthier. Met with central school food supplier; tested new foods that may be brought in. Youth Unleashed held outreach at Hillhouse cafeteria to help improve, get feedback on school food issues. Megan noted that youth have really progressed, more kids are coming on board and taking a role in this issue! Tagan stated that they are working with CitySeed on USDA Farm to School grant, interviews with school food workers, students, parents to get fresh, regional food into schools. HeadStart – new bid language to get city to create better offerings. Catherine – link with early childhood is important. NH childhood connection, can we get council representation? Alycia – bill in state legislature pushing for better food in early childhood education.
- Urban Agriculture – Jamilah. Drafted letter to mayor to emphasize need for/benefits of urban agriculture. Developing Urban Ag Workshop list – putting into simple flyer. Catherine – provided background on “Big Farm” – New Haven Farms to begin, with the intention of expanding it out in the future to be a more collaborative effort. Proposal to city to support urban ag should include support for rest of community garden sites, as well – comprehensive “ask” to city.

On-going management/leadership of Working Groups

- Alycia – Working Groups began as outgrowth of Food Summit. How should FPC manage them going forward? Diana suggested that CitySeed take over programmatic aspects of Working Groups, in connection with FPC. Nicole

– what do the groups need? CitySeed is interested in helping but how will it be funded – divert funds from FPC staff? How does the FPC see the groups growing, what are future plans? Tagan stated that she is spending a lot of time supporting the WGs, attending meetings, making connections, building partnerships. Groups need to be intentional, more community outreach is needed. How do we make that happen? Nicole – this is really a part-time job, needs a paid worker to provide leadership and administrative support, to make them sustainable. Alycia – should FPC take on that structural role? Groups should be self-sustaining. If outreach is required, who and how do we do that? Tagan – role required to coordinate training, cultivate leadership.

- Catherine – how do we sustain the WG over time – chairs/members will come and go. How does this relate to role of Community Food Systems Coordinator? – look into overlaps. Alycia – what about Food Systems Director overlap? Tagan noted that there are grants/interest in sustainability, community engagement around food justice. FPC role is as advisory body, providing collaboration, so even if another organization was involved in programmatic aspects, FPC would still be overseeing them. Dawn asked about funding for WG programs. Tagan – they would partner with an organization that had funding for that type of work to apply for grants or manage funding. Billy – WG shouldn’t take on projects, want to be nimble and able to change focus to address different kinds of issues; focus on policy vs. programs. Nicole – there needs to be action to keep people interested, engaged. Catherine noted that activity can take place through the people around table at FPC rather than at WG.
- **Action**
 - Pursue this issue with Policy Advancement Committee, Nicole.
 - Tagan will put together job description for WG leadership role.
 - Tagan and Nicole will get input from all WG chairs.

National Conference of Mayors

- Participation in Working Group of Food Policy Directors – Tagan will be representative at monthly phone meetings. Next meeting is April 18th.

CT Humanities – Community Conversation

- Tagan – have to be in contact with them to pursue this opportunity. Jacquie questioned if this could help us facilitate our Food Forum for the mayoral candidates?
- **Action**
 - Jacquie will follow up with Amanda Roy at CT Humanities to get details.

Feed New Haven Blog

- Ellen noted that she has spent time on the blog and it’s getting into shape – still needs a little work before it can be distributed but should be able to do that in the next week or so. Wants to get it out there for people to see it and get inspired to participate! So far New Haven Farms and Common Ground have agreed to provide content on a regular basis.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS – 5 minutes

- Community Potluck and documentary film “Food Stamped” at Barnard School on Thursday, April 25th, sponsored by Common Ground, West River Neighborhood Association and New Haven Bioregional Group.
- Cooking Matters/United Way get together at United Way offices, James Street, on April 23rd, 5-7:30pm.

Upcoming Meeting Dates for Working Groups:

Cooking & Food Education	Monday, April 15 th	6:00-7:30pm	City Hall
Economic Development/Food Business	Thursday, May 9 th	8:30am-10:00am	TBD
Composting committee	Thursday, April 25 th	6:00pm-7:30pm	City Hall
Food Assistance (formerly Emergency Food)	Thursday, May 2 nd	4:00pm-5:30pm	TBD
School Food	Thursday, April 25 th	6:00pm-7:30pm	Neighborhood Housing Services
Urban Agriculture	Thursday, May 9 th	8:30am-10:00am	TBD

Next Food Policy Council Meeting
Wednesday, May 15th – 8:00-9:45am
City Hall Meeting Room #1
Contact: Staff@NHFoodPolicyCouncil.org