



New Haven Food Policy Council

Meeting Minutes

June 19th, 2013

Attendees:

Council members: Monique Centrone Stefani, Tagan Engel, Dawn Slade, Alycia Santilli, Maria Tupper

Affiliate and community members: Catherine Bradshaw, Caty Poole, Luray Shepard, Billy Bromage, Cara Donovan, Jacqueline Lewin, Sonja Ahuja, Kate O'Shaughnessy, Jamilah Rasheed, Ramone Brown, Maya Midzik, Jackson Blum, Austin Bryniarski, Tim Le, Hannah Croasmun, Ellen Pendergast

Food & Health Forum with Mayoral Candidates

- Food & Health Forum to be sponsored by NHFPC and CARE. Being planned by the Policy Advancement Committee (PAC).
- Forum scheduled for the early evening of July 31st; time TBD; planning 90 minutes for Forum. Currently planning to start with dinner at DESK; looking into alternate locations for Forum, including churches on the Green, Beulah Heights in Dixwell neighborhood, NHFPL. Beulah Heights and library are air-conditioned; library space is too small. Ellen is waiting to hear from churches on the Green about times to go see the spaces this week.
- Promotion: will need assistance from members, affiliates and partners to promote the event, especially to neighborhood/community contacts. Ellen/Tagan to draft/design a flyer once location and time have been established.
- Questions for candidates – in process. Determined that we will need approximately six questions to fit format, which will be an open discussion with good moderator to guide the conversation. There will be approximately 15 minutes/question. Will be available for review by the Council prior to the event.
- Planning pre-meetings with Council members and individual candidates to familiarize them with the NHFPC work and FAP; all candidates have indicated they are interested in attending. Alycia will send out policy recommendations document for review, which will be sent to candidates in advance of the pre-meetings.
- Moderator – John Dankosky is first choice, Jacquie/Alycia are following up contacts.
- CT Humanities involvement – they cannot commit to collaborating with us on the Candidate Forum due to the close of their fiscal year. They are open to future collaborations. Jacquie will follow up with them later on.
- **Action**
 - Develop a budget for forum for approval at next meeting.

FAP Implementation Priorities

- Working with small group of aldermen to identify policy initiative priorities, with objective of asking BoA to officially endorse the FAP. Alycia is in contact with Jorge Perez on this.
- Policy Advancement Committee has shifted emphasis to the Candidate Forum. Will resume working on FAP priorities after Forum planning is complete.

NHFPC Administration

Fiduciary update

- Treasurer not present for formal update.
- Tagan noted that we haven't made any major expenditures so there should still be \$6-7M in the budget, which the Council previously approved for use for continuation of staff position.
- Have not obtained yet commitment from City for annual funds. Added item to the Mayoral Candidate policy recommendations to continue city funding of Council.

New member suggestions to replace Monique based on representation needs; open Council secretary position

- Need new member and new secretary. Primary responsibilities of secretary are overseeing adherence to by-laws and reviewing meeting minutes for accuracy.
- There may be other council member openings -- Rob Friedman has expressed interest in stepping down; Fred Cofrancesco is moving to Guilford.

- Representation: Catherine noted that we may want to consider an early childhood voice, an important sector. Tagan suggested economic development/business people. Could consider representation from the religious community – minister. Interfaith Cooperative Ministries? Fair Haven Clinic? Yale New Haven Hospital? Need to keep racial, economic diversity in mind.
- **Action**
 - Alycia to call officers’ meeting to identify a few prospective members. Will invite council members, anyone else who is interested in being involved in process – Jacquie. Ellen to assist with coordination.

Content of Annual Report

- Monique suggests systematically collecting information throughout the year to minimize effort at end of year. Obtain input from officers. Policy initiatives, activities, projects, financials, composition of council, communities, responsibilities to work we are committed to do. Diversity of people we reach, thrust of efforts.
- **Action**
 - Alycia to follow up with Anika, who expressed interest in working on Annual Report. Ellen to work with Anika to develop outline.

Working Groups

Summary of Structure Committee meeting held on June 5th

- Tagan stated that a Structure Committee meeting was held with the chairs of the Working Groups to review what is effective and working, what is not. The meeting was a good starting point; Committee will follow up to define how the groups will continue, be sustainable, what components are needed for their success.
- Sonja noted that the Structure Committee will meet first to resolve some open issues, then there will be a follow-up meeting to plan the Working Groups.

Food Assistance Working Group -- Billy

- Billy is meeting with Steve Werlin, DESK, and City representatives to talk about coordinating a neighborhood-based Street Sheet-like resource, not just for downtown. Food pantries, soup kitchens, community gardens. Tagan suggested reaching out through the alders for more detailed information on what is going on in neighborhoods.
- Food Advocate proposal – FAWG has developed a proposal for advocacy training for people receiving services – seniors, WIC, SNAP, food pantries, soup kitchens. One-day training on advocacy, telling their story, NHFPC, issues at federal/state/local levels. Trainees will receive stipend. Will apply for grants <\$5,000, community foundations applications. Council to vote on proposal via email. Alycia noted that this is an exciting model for developing a method for advocacy moving forward.
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program – fed congressional delegation (esp. Rosa) USDA toward seniors, WIC. Commodity foods canned goods, grains. Stuck at federal level – CT is missing out. Meet with Rosa to find out what she can do to help. Senior Nutrition Farmer’s Market.

Urban Agriculture Working Group – Jamilah

- Letter to the Mayor’s Office – Group is reformulating letter to identify a broader vision for urban agriculture in the city, rather than focusing on items that will cost money.
- Board of Aldermen final vote on renewing leases for community gardens is on July 1st. Need show of support 6:30-7:00pm that evening.
- Some leases have been decreased from five years to one year, specifically Newhallville area. Need help from local alders. Outreach via NH Land Trust.
- Isaac Street garden is planning to put up a glass greenhouse. Concerns about upkeep issue, lack of input from Urban Ag WG. Parks Dept, URI, LCI, to be invited to next WG to let them know about these concerns.

School Food Working Group -- Tagan

- Food Service Workers’ Campaign – a major current issue. Should the NHFPC develop and publish a statement outlining our position? Can see all sides, don’t want to politicize. Issue is not about food, really about budget and finances.
- Advocate to create a voice for all active participants, students and workers?
- Tagan to develop an outline of all the issues for the WG to review and decide next steps.

Brief update from chair /council member representative

Cooking & Food Education – Cara

- Arts & Ideas Pop-Ups last two weekends in Dixwell, Fair Haven. Cooking demos. Great attendance, excitement, requests for more cooking education; a lot of positive feedback. WG is focusing on coming up with regular programs rather than special events. Cooking Matters has a list of upcoming program sites; need their schedule to coordinate with neighborhood efforts.

Economic Development – Kate

- Proposal to EDC for info graphic creation to determine costs. EDC is eager to help, feels it is something they should be doing. Kate to suggest they be bi-lingual.

Brief updates

Anaerobic digestion for generating energy from organic waste

- Tagan to attend meeting with Lynne Bonnett, Rob Smuts. Ramone to join meeting, he has done a school project on it. Some tension with composting advocates. Tagan to determine Yale involvement.

No updates on the following due to lack of time:

Report on the National Conference of Mayors conference call – Tagan

Letter of support for Food Incubator Project drafted/submitted to Matt Goldstein for EDC Grant Application – Ellen

Youth Vista 2013-2016 – new CitySeed VISTA member – Tagan

Feed New Haven Blog – Ellen

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

- NHFPC Summer Celebration, Tuesday, June 25th, 5:30pm -7:30pm, Yale Farm – BYO drinks and a dish to share. Light ovens @ 2:30pm. Send invite to
- Festival of Arts & Ideas, Thursday, June 27th – Marion Nestle, The Politics of Food, Yale University Art Gallery, 5:30pm
- New Haven Land Trust -- Rachel Ziesk has been named part-time garden manager; Maria Tupper is new Chair of Garden Committee.

Next Food Policy Council Meeting
Wednesday, July 17th – 8:00-9:45am
City Hall Meeting Room #1
Contact: Staff@NHFoodPolicyCouncil.org

Upcoming Meeting Dates for Working Groups:

Cooking & Food Education	Monday, July 15th	6:00pm-7:30pm	City Hall
Economic Development/Food Business Composting committee	Meet w/ Urban Ag Working Group or Compost committee based on interest TBA		
Food Assistance	Thursday, July 11th	4:00am-5:30pm	United Way
School Food	Thursday, July 25th	6:00pm-7:30pm	Neighborhood Housing Services
Urban Agriculture	Thursday, July 11th	8:30am-10:00am	Gateway Long Wharf Campus