



New Haven Food Policy Council (NHFPC)

Meeting Minutes December 18th, 2013

Attendees:

Council members: Tagan Engel, Alycia Santilli, Maria Tupper

Affiliate and community members: Catherine Bradshaw, Billy Bromage, Caty Poole (council membership pending vote by BOA), Mark Firla, Abigail Shelton, Hannah Croasmun, Jill Dotlo, Robert Halstead, Harry Barbosa, Julio Gomez, Caitlin Aylward, Augusta Mueller, Staci Detwiler, Justin Elicker, Tracy Helin, Rebecca Kline, Susan O'Leary, Sonja Ahuja, Ellen Pendergast

NHFPC February Annual Meeting

- Alycia initiated a discussion about the timing and format of the NHFPC annual meeting. The group previously proposed a half day, Saturday meeting in February that would include Council business as well as a community gathering/event.
- Augusta suggested that the recent End Hunger CT event, *Rich State, Empty Plates*, used a format that worked well: on a weekday, 11:30am-4:30pm timeline, key note speech(es), videos, conversational, business meeting. She also suggested that we may want to show End Hunger CT's video at our meeting, as it touches on many of our issues.
- Maria noted that the Food Summit really served to energize people and that we've been operating on that ever since; this meeting should further that effort and energy. Meeting should present what we have accomplished and where are we headed. The group agreed that the primary audience is the general community, like the Food Summit, to re-engage with the community and involve new people in the Working Groups. In addition to engaging new Working Group members, community outreach could include recruiting Council members/affiliates in demographic segments that we need to fulfill.
- Each Working Group to present how it came about, what it has done, what is working, what isn't. Use the meeting as call to action to new activities.
- Although the community event doesn't have to be the same date as February annual meeting, February typically provides open time in people's schedules, is timely to get an early start on growing food, and is a good time to cook food.
- Group agreed that the meeting should be held on Saturday; we are leaning toward Saturday, February 22nd with March 1st as the snow date.
- Alycia noted that we have no current funding for the meeting. Suggestions for obtaining funding included Greater New Haven Green Fund; to create a pamphlet and sell advertising; corporate sponsorships; Community Foundation for Greater New Haven grant. Involve Get Healthy CT.
- Suggestion was made that we reach out to the city and the new mayor to engage them in this event in some way, to gather support.
- Part of annual business meeting includes new/renewed appointments of NHFPC members and affiliate members and election of officers.
 - Alycia mentioned that Dawn Slade will take a 'leave of absence' for a few months due to personal circumstances. .
- A committee formed to plan the event -- Mark, Caty, Tagan, Abby, Caitlin, Maria, Alycia.
- **Action**
 - Ellen to set up initial committee meeting during the first week of January.

Policy Advancement Committee (PAC)

- PAC has finalized the NHFPC Policy Priorities document, which solidifies the Council's 2013/14 priorities. The document was distributed to Council members/affiliates on December 13th for review in anticipation of a vote by the Council at today's meeting. Lack of a quorum prevents that.
- **Action**
 - Ellen to send Policy Priorities document to Council members for an email vote.
- Tagan noted that the Policy Priorities document provides a basis for planning of and engagement at February's community event.
- PAC's next step is to propose specific zoning details and changes, which Hannah has been working on. They will provide a draft to the Council, affiliates, some Alders and other key people for review and comment. They have targeted the third week in January to present and discuss a draft with the alders.
- PAC meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at City Hall; the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 7th, at 9:00am. Anyone who is interested in participating is welcome to attend.

Core Team (aka Structure Committee)

- Sonja provided an overview of upcoming CEIO Capacity Building/Training Opportunities for January – March 2014. It is a three-part series focused on identity clarification and mission effectiveness. Content and locations to be announced in the next several weeks.
- Tentative date to continue Saturday, December 14th's *Let's Talk About Race* workshop is January 20th.

NHFPC Youth Internship Program

- As our Food Justice Youth Corp VISTA, Caitlin is determining ways to engage youth in the Council's work. The Council's by-laws provide for a youth affiliate member, and Caitlyn is working on how to implement that. Objective is to make the work more meaningful to youth to keep them engaged on an ongoing basis and to demonstrate that youth can use the Council as a link to people who have power beyond their school or community group – city government, foundations, other organizations.
- Caitlin distributed a detailed outline for an NHFPC Youth Internship program for review and comment.
- Idea is to establish this program over three years, making it the point of focus for VISTAs, and to make it self-sustaining after that.
- Age range is 13-18. We can make it what we want it to be; the by-laws can be changed. Question was raised as to whether we should include youth who are in the year between high school and college, as well.
- Caitlin indicated that she would like to get the program implemented by February; Alycia has concerns about the quick timeline. We can use the annual meeting to engage people in the Youth Internship, as well, and align with the spring semester of the academic year.
- A committee will form to help Caitlin get this off the ground. Tagan and Billy expressed interest.
- **Action**
 - Ellen to send out an email to engage a larger group in the committee.
 - Caitlin to approach Citywide Youth Coalition about being on the committee.

Get Healthy CT

Weight Loss Challenge

- Augusta stated that an event is planned for January 10th, 9:00am at Cornell Scott Hill Health Center, at which CSHHC is launching their Biggest Loser campaign; GH CT is using it as a launching point for the New Haven Weight Loss Challenge. Other businesses and organizations are doing this as well, so will be more involvement. Creating a re-awareness of program; Toni Harp, Mike Taylor, CEO of YNHH will attend.
- Get Healthy CT is working on a resource directory. Want to get CitySeed Farmer's Market dates on the calendar. Includes monthly topics, photos, Facebook page, successes with policy initiatives. Another way to push out information about what the Council is doing.
- Augusta inquired about GH CT becoming an affiliate member organization.

- Alycia noted that the NHFPC's role in GH CT is still evolving. We should consider ways to include them as part of our annual meeting.

Evaluation support

- GH CT's Support Systems Working Group is able to fill in the capacity we are lacking to provide evaluation support. They plan to take up the NHFPC as their first example, using the FAP as a basis, establishing metrics, etc. It's an exciting opportunity to prove if an initiative like this is really working.
- The Support Systems WG meets the second Wednesday of the month at United Way of Greater New Haven, 10:30-11:30am. Please join them if interested.

Working Groups

Food Assistance - Billy

Commodity Supplemental Food Program Advocacy

- Moving forward with CSFP, a program for seniors who are less likely than other to use or be able to access soup kitchens and food pantries or to apply for SNAP, and who need to obtain their food from trusted sites.
- Conducted outreach with a national organization prior to their lobby day with members of the CT congressional delegation in Washington DC. Representative from Reps. DeLauro and Murphy and Sen. Blumenthal's offices indicate that they are all on board with nutrition as a priority.
- FAWG is also working with senior organizations, senior service providers, AARP CT, etc., on this, as well.
- Billy urged people to call Rosa DeLauro's office to thank her for her work on these food issues.
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Food Advocate Training

- Food Advocates have been working hard since their training that took place on October 26th, a collaboration between NHFPC, End Hunger CT and CARE. Twelve people were trained from 50 who applied.
- They have been featured in the End Hunger CT video, in Yale articles, CARE videos. Copies have gone to Rosa DeLauro and Chris Murphy's offices. They are getting the word out and it's working.
- Four of the advocate trainees attended the Empty Plates Food Symposium in Middletown on December 5th.
- FAWG plans to partner with the School Food WG for the summer food program. We need to get the word out earlier.

Urban Agriculture - Maria

- In process of planning the Urban Resource Center – what it will be, how it will operate. There are many ideas.
- Maria questioned how the Urban Resource Center relates to transition team of the Harp administration. May want to invite the Parks Department to the Urban Ag WG's January meeting.
- New Haven Farms is pursuing options for land for a community farm. They are tabling the concept for 2014 and planning now for 2015.

Cooking & Food Education - Tagan

- In process of planning the Super Cooks Corps, a free community cooking-teacher training program. Funding is provided through a grant from the Health Dept. Identifying people within the community to teach the classes.
- Plan is for training to take place mid-February to mid-March. Two series of sessions, one for adults - four Saturdays in a row; one for teens - four Thursdays; all 1-1/2 hour sessions. One year teaching commitment.
- Locations TBD. Luck and Levity, Common Ground, churches, etc., are options.
- Need trainers to help during training sessions – Abby Shelton volunteered.
- Application is in development – they will send it out to the Council for approval before it is distributed.
- Would like to raise seed money to get the Super Cooks vouchers to buy food, etc.
- Alycia noted that we need to conduct pre/post evaluations; Catherine, United Way can assist. How much, how well, is anyone any better off as a result (results-based accountability).
- Tagan noted that the training includes coaching as to how to ask for funding, how to set up classes, etc.

Economic Development

- We have a new chair for the Economic Development WG, Phyllis Hanes. Need an assistant chair.

School Food – Abby Shelton

- Abby is developing a flyer to get the word out that the School Food WG is starting back up. They are looking at the fourth Monday of the month, with the next meeting on January 27th. Considering changing the time from 6-7:30pm to beginning the meeting at 3:30 or 4:00pm.
- Possible meeting locations include Neighborhood Housing Services and Stop and Shop on Whalley Avenue.
- **Action**
 - Ellen to find out if Neighborhood Housing Services has room availability at that time.

NHFPC Administration

Annual Report

- Caty distributed an outline and noted that a draft of the 2013 report is in process. Planning on 2-1/2 to 3 pages. Council members and affiliates are on distribution.
- Comments on outline – The report should include the results of our work. We should highlight our collaborations in the community. We should incorporate demographic information of the council/affiliates working group chairs, including geographic, race, age and gender information.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

- CitySeed’s Wooster Square Farmers’ Market will be running year-round at the Indoor Winter Farmers’ Market, Saturdays, January 11th – April 26th, 10am-1pm, at the Metropolitan Business Academy, 115 Water Street, New Haven. Features SNAP double value coupons.
- The New Haven Land Trust is seeking a part-time Executive Director. A detailed job description is available at www.newhavenlandtrust.org/employment.

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

Upcoming Meeting Dates for Working Groups:

Cooking & Food Education	TBD	6:00pm-7:30pm	City Hall
Economic Development/Food Business	Meet w/ Urban Ag Working Group		
Food Assistance	Thursday, January 9th	4:00pm-5:30pm	Fair Haven Community Health Center, 374 Grand Avenue
School Food	Monday, January 27 th	3:30pm-5:00pm	Neighborhood Housing Services
Urban Agriculture	Thursday, January 9 th	8:30am-10:00am	City Hall