



New Haven Food Policy Council (NHFPC)

Meeting Minutes February 19th, 2014

Items Voted on:

1. **KIMBERLY HART NOMINATED AS COUNCIL MEMBER -- APPROVED BY NHFPC.**
2. **FINAL DRAFT OF NHFPC 2013 ANNUAL REPORT -- APPROVED BY NHFPC.**

Attendees:

Council members: Tagan Engel, Diana Richter, Alycia Santilli, Maria Tupper, Caty Poole

Affiliate and community members: Billy Bromage, Jacqueline Lewin, Kimberly Hart, Jill Meyerhoff, Victoria Hovick, Cara Donovan, Hannah Croasmun, Caitlin Aylward, Justin Elicker, Tracy Helin, Amanda Proscino, Abigail Shelton, Augusta Mueller, Felicia Shashinka, Miracle Brown, Sonja Ahuja, Ellen Pendergast

NHFPC Annual Gathering

- Ellen provided an overview of the agenda and logistics of the meeting; Caty summarized the meeting objectives. Alycia noted that we are trying to balance the inclusion of new people and new ideas while maintaining focus on the priorities we have identified and agreed to.
- Need volunteer assistance for event! Jacque, Maria, Caitlin, Abby.
- **Action**
 - Ellen to send out email invitation again so it can be easily forwarded to others.

New Member and Affiliate Member Selection

New Council Member

- Kimberly Hart has been approached about joining the Council. Kim introduced herself and stated that she has previously been involved in grass roots efforts to right social and economic injustice in New Haven, helping people to become more self-sufficient and less dependent. She has worked with state and local legislature to change laws, is passionate about food justice and is eager to get to work and get things done. She is currently one of the FAWG Food Advocates and will be the Council's liaison to FAWG. She is a New Haven resident and has the time to commit to Council duties.
- **MOTION FOR VOTE ON KIMBERLY HART BECOMING COUNCIL MEMBER, APPROVED BY NHFPC.**

Affiliate Members

- Current
 - New Haven Health Dept. – need new representative
 - Yale Sustainable Food Project – Jacque Lewin
 - Common Ground – Frank Mitchell
 - CitySeed – Nicole Berube
 - Rudd Center – Rob Friedman
 - CT Food Bank – Tracy Helin
 - Cadence Consulting – Catherine Bradshaw
- Proposed for approval at Annual Gathering on February 22nd
 - Fresh Advantage – Marydale Debor
 - Get Healthy CT – Jill Meyerhoff
 - New Haven Farms
- Additional candidates for affiliate membership
 - YNNH – Christina DeVito
 - New Haven Land Trust – Justin Elicker
 - Loaves & Fishes – Alex Dyer
 - Jamilah Rasheed

- Global Local Gourmet – Nadine Nelson
- Phyllis Haynes
- Junta

Get Healthy CT

- Felicia Shashaka announced that Get Healthy CT is planning a Physical Activity Event, April 5th, 10-3 on New Haven Green to kick off the City's Weight Loss Challenge. Mayor Harp will be the honorary chairperson for the day; she is very supportive of the program.
- GHCT is requesting NHFPC's help to get vendors there and to get information out to attendees.
- Augusta noted that this is opportunity to bring everything on their web site to life on Green -- cooking demos, Super Cooks, farmers market on the Green? Tagan suggested healthy food vendors instead of farmers market; roasted corn, maybe participation by Elm City Market, a walking tour to Wooster Square Farmers Market instead.
- Planning to close Temple Street for the event. Schedule of activities to come. Looking for participation by families; ideas include climbing walls, health screenings, mountain bikes, yoga, boxing, zumba, pilates.
- Alycia confirmed that the NHFPC will help publicize the event for them. We can also send out emails requesting participation in the day to our large list – gardens, etc.
- Augusta will work with Diana for food donations.
- Tory Hovick, SCSU intern, is working on GHCT website. It is intended to become a central access point for information about all kinds of physical activities, free and for fee, in the greater New Haven area.

Kendall Foundation opportunity – Food Systems Director

- Tagan and Alycia met again with Tomas Reyes, Mayor Harp's Chief of Staff, and Becky Bombero, Legislative Director & Deputy Chief of Staff, to pitch the position. Alycia and Tagan brought a letter of commitment from the Kendall Foundation, which commits partial funding for this position. Tomas was supportive and committed to bringing the proposal to the Mayor.
- As a follow up step, the Council has been asked to meet with the City's new development office. Need to push to create a sustainable position – this is a requirement of the Kendall Foundation funding.
- Tagan asked about the budget and timing. According to Justin, the budget includes grant-funded positions. The position is more likely to happen if it's in the budget, but not necessarily for March 1st. Advocate for next year.
- A Yale Sustainable Farm student did salary research. Need to reexamine FSD job description. Discuss at March meeting.
- Position should *not* be called "Food Czar" – this is a collaborative position. Justin suggested that we may want to talk to the press about not using that term.

NHFPC Administration

Annual Report

- The 2013 Annual Report has been finalized and was sent out to the Council and affiliates for review. Diana and Catherine made several edits.
- **MOTION FOR VOTE TO APPROVE THE 2013 ANNUAL REPORT -- APPROVED BY NHFPC.**
- **Action**
 - Ellen to send a PDF to Pattie Lawlor and have it posted on the City's web site.

Fiduciary update

- We received the annual funding from the city, \$7,000 for 2013. Also received \$1,000 from the CFGNH to fund the Annual Gathering.

Structural Work for NHFPC

- Tagan proposed forming a committee to work on improving the structure of the NHFPC, to clarify our approach to our work, and make the NHFPC sustainable, inclusive and effective. This is connected to CEIO's work, but will take it beyond March 31st, the end of the CEIO grant period.
- Tagan noted that this will overlap with the end of CEIO's work. There is still a lot to be done – how the Council functions, procedures, attendance, how are we functioning as a grassroots organization. Being intentional about how we function as a model for change. Struggling with capacity as we're trying to do so many things. How to make the work more equitable, provide for shared responsibilities. Working on these issues will also help guide us regarding recruitment of members and affiliates.
- Next scheduled CEIO workshop, *Approaches to Social Change*, will start the conversation for some of these issues.

- Tagan suggests a small committee to think these matters through, flesh them out, and bring ideas and suggestions back to the Council.
- Maria noted that attendance by members and participation in WGs should be addressed. Alycia agreed that we will tackle Council memberships and affiliates as part of this group. Caitlin suggested also looking at the bigger picture in terms of the Council's hierarchy.
- Tagan offered to help put this committee together – first step is *Approaches to Social Change* workshop (subsequently scheduled to be held on Thursday, March 13th, 1-5pm).
- Important to get Council members and affiliates to the workshop – target twenty or so. Billy, Maria, Diana. Robin?
- **Action**
 - Ellen to follow up with doodle poll to determine date for workshop, subsequent invitations and RSVPs.

Update of NHFPC Youth Internship Program

- Tagan stated that Caitlin has been working through the CityWide Youth Coalition to promote the Youth Internship Program; we will also announce it at the Annual Gathering.
- Youth will learn to be advocates, to tell stories, and get others to tell stories. They will be aligned with specific Working Group. Caitlin is developing a host organization document. The internships will begin in the summer and have a one-year commitment.
- Justin will be involved. There will be support from MFund and others, as well.
- Tagan also noted that CitySeed is interviewing new VISTAS now; there will be seven sites next year statewide. Also looking for advisors, support for youth internships.

Working Groups – 20 minutes

School Food – Abby

- About a dozen people at the last meeting. They are making plans for what the group will do and planning for the Annual Gathering. The group needs greater student involvement and outreach. They are planning to work with FAWG on the Summer Food Program. Spreading word to parents about attending the Annual Gathering on Saturday.

Cooking & Food Education – Tagan

- Application for Master Cook Corp is almost complete. “Stirring up solutions and cooking as well.” Billy questioned whether “master” implies too high a level of qualification? Draft application will be available at the Annual Gathering on Saturday.

Urban Ag – Maria

- Invitations have gone out to LCI, URI, for a meeting about UARC. It will more likely be a mobile center rather than fixed location.

Policy Advancement – Alycia

- Focused on Food Systems Director, zoning, food procurement. Karen Gilvarg is interested in exploring ideas around healthy food zones; that is in process and will be developing. Meeting scheduled with her for Thursday, March 20th at 2:30pm. PAC members and anyone else who is interested are invited to attend. Alder outreach is another priority.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS – 5 minutes

- CEIO *Approaches to Social Change* Workshop, ~~Thursday, February 27th, 4-8pm~~, (subsequently rescheduled for Thursday, March 13th, 1-5pm), at Teach for America, 370 James Street, New Haven. Commitments from 10 people needed to run this workshop.

Next Food Policy Council Meeting
Wednesday, April 16th – 8:00-9:45am
City Hall Meeting Room #1
Contact: Staff@NHFoodPolicyCouncil.org

Upcoming Meeting Dates for Working Groups and Committees:

Cooking & Food Education	To be announced		
Economic Development/Food Business	Meet w/ Urban Ag Working Group		
Food Assistance	Thursday, March 6th	4:00-5:30pm	Columbus House Annex 592 Ella Grasso Boulevard
Policy Advancement Committee	Wednesday, April 2nd	8:45-9:45am	City Hall
School Food	Monday, March 24 th	3:30-5:00pm	Neighborhood Housing Services 333 Sherman Avenue
Urban Agriculture	Wednesday, March 12 th	8:30-10:00am	City Hall