



New Haven Food Policy Council (NHFP)

Meeting Agenda March 19th, 2014

Attendees:

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

Affiliate and community members: Jill Meyerhoff, Catherine Bradshaw, Billy Bromage, Phyllis Haynes, Justin Elicker, Anne Somsel, Augusta Mueller, Cristina DeVito, Abby Shelton, Anh Nguyen, Gail Sharry, Hannah Croasmun, Caitlin Aylward, Tracy Helin, Amanda Proscino, Mark Firla, Ellen Pendergast

Recap of NHFP Annual Gathering

- Tagan remarked that the Annual Gathering on February 22nd was great – about 130 people attended, including many new faces. The Mayor attended, as well. The Working Groups met, lots of connections were made and much energy generated.
- Maria concurred, adding that she felt we accomplished our goal of re-energizing the Working Groups. She noted that the location worked out well, as did the food arrangements.
- Alycia noted that the photos from the event are posted on the NHFP's Facebook page, as well as on the I Love New Haven web site.
- Ellen suggested that, for future events of this type, we need more volunteer participation in both planning and execution.
- Tagan noted that, as a result of the Annual Gathering, our email list has grown to over 500 people. However, this has created a problem for us as gmail has sending limits.
- **Action**
 - Tagan and Ellen to address email list issues.
- Alycia expressed thanks to all the volunteers, and to everyone present who attended.

Summer Meals Program – Mark Firla, Billy Bromage

- Mark explained that the objective of the NHFP's involvement with the Summer Meals Program is to expand its reach and participation. End Hunger CT has offered to help.
- A meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 31st with End Hunger CT and several of the alders, city administration, police, housing authority and others to begin coordination efforts. A bigger outreach meeting will follow, potentially partnering with other organizations. There will be launch event in mid-June, followed by comprehensive door-to-door outreach continuing through the first or second week of August. NHFP's challenge is to get a big volunteer turn-out to knock on doors -- 150 people on a Saturday morning. Have to get the information out!
- Billy noted that End Hunger CT has done this type of outreach in other cities – their "Summer Blitz." They have offered to make New Haven their central focus. They will help with structure, providing their model and materials, and arrange for public officials to attend the kick-off. We will mobilize people.
- Mark added that an important aspect is to identify feeding sites in the best possible locations based on other things that are either located or going on in specific neighborhoods. Mark, Abby, and Billy met with Gail and Lucinda at Central Kitchen to identify locations that have been overlooked or have not worked as well in the past. We need to identify other organizations to come to those meetings, including the Housing Authority.
- Tagan added that getting the word out about the program early (before the last day of school) is also key to its success.
- Mark noted that there has not been a lot of coordination around the Summer Food Program, and that the NHFP can play a significant role by broadening the conversation and bringing volunteers out. It's possible that we can talk about expanding the program beyond its current parameters.
- Billy noted that the NHFP's effort will primarily be driven by the School Food and Food Assistance working groups.
- Diana suggested that DESK could be a site downtown. Tracy noted that CT Food Bank can help with outreach.
- Mark added that there are lots of people doing a lot of things and lots of ideas but little coordination among them – NHFP to help make these connections. It is important to get people to the planning meeting on March 31st!

New Member and Affiliate Member selection

- Alycia noted that at the last Council meeting, we voted to approve Kim Hart as a new Council member; her confirmation is in process at the Mayor's office. Caty's confirmation was recently finalized by City Hall after her approval by the Council last fall. There is still one open member seat.
- At the Annual Gathering we voted on our current and new affiliate members: Cityseed, Common Ground, CT Food Bank, Fresh Advantage, NH Farms, Rudd Center, Yale Sustainable Food Project. We have a total of 15 affiliate seats.
- Catherine questioned who currently represents the NH Land Trust? Maria, as Council member. Tagan noted that the Council has intentionally tried to avoid duplicate memberships from the same organization in order to engage as many different organizations as possible; for example, Tagan now represents CitySeed as a Council member, so Nicole (ED of CitySeed) is no longer an affiliate member so that another organization can be.
- Alycia stated that we have a good candidate for either Council or affiliate membership, Rev. Alex Dyer of Loaves & Fishes. As a Council member, he would fill a faith-based opening. It was noted that he is an excellent advocate for food justice, wants to be actively involved and is very good at getting people together.
- Tagan noted that, in order to improve our outreach in all city neighborhoods, we need to have more racial, economic and geographic diversity in our Council members. While Alex would bring a certain level of diversity as a member of both the faith and LGBT communities, we could alternatively ask Alex to become an affiliate member, holding one Council member seat open for even further diversity.
- **Action**
 - Alycia to contact Alex, request that he submit a brief description of his interest in becoming a Council member and invite him to our next meeting.
- Phyllis suggested that we post bios of our Council members on our web site that include their communities, affiliations and interests so that people are more aware of and can relate better to the Council's diversity. Caty noted that doing this would assist us in highlighting diversity in our Annual Report, which the Council has indicated it wants to do.
- Augusta requested that YNHH be considered as an affiliate member, with Cristina Devito and Linda Mastroianni sharing representative responsibilities.
- Alycia noted that we also need a new representative from the Health Department.
- Alycia suggested that we turn affiliate membership over to the Structure Committee for further consideration. Caitlin added that we may want to re-think the structure of the Council in general in that Committee.

Get Healthy CT

- Jill gave a brief overview of Get Fit Day, which is being organized by GHCT's Physical Activity Working Group. It will be held on the NH Green on Saturday, April 5th from 10am-3pm. Mayor Harp is the honorary chairperson and will participate in the activities.
- Jill stated that the idea is to get everyone to eat better and move more – no one to sit! There will be a variety of activities including exercise classes, walking tours, healthy food vendors and health screenings.
- CitySeed will have a table and will walk people to the Farmer's Market. Diana will participate with FISH for donations of food items or cash for each pound lost – you lose/we gain strategy.
- The event is the same as the Day in Service for Rock to Rock, from 10am-1pm – can we coordinate? Jill to check.

Kendall Foundation opportunity

- Alycia reported that there continues to be exciting progress with the Food Systems Director position. The Kendall Foundation is willing to fund part of the position with a commitment from the City. The Mayor's office is supportive of the position, and it has been added as a line item in budget, contingent on funding. Deliberations over the budget are taking place with the Board of Alders.
- Alycia noted that we need to identify additional funders in conjunction with the City, which will make the asks. Kendall has a grant deadline of the end of April/early May.
- Tagan stated that we are writing a job description for the position, which the Council will vote on at its April meeting.
- The Mayor's office has recommended that the position be placed under the Community Services Administration for stability; we may suggest putting it under Economic Development. This will be discussed and resolved with City Hall.
- PAC will continue this discussion and work on the job description at their next meeting on Wednesday, April 2nd at 8:45am at City Hall.
- Catherine asked about funding for administrative support for the position. The FSD salary is estimated at \$100-125M, so are asking for \$150 per year over two years to provide some latitude for administrative support.
- USDA grant is a possibility to fund this position – it is big and difficult, but might be doable for year two.

NHFPC Administration

- Fiduciary update – none at this time.

Structural Work for NHFPC

- Tagan explained that, post-CEIO's involvement, we still have work to do on improving structure for NHFPC, clarifying our approach to our work, and making the NHFPC sustainable, inclusive and effective.
- CEIO's *Approaches to Social Change* workshop last week was intended as a starting point for that discussion; unfortunately, a number of people could not make it to the workshop. Kim, Nicole and Caitlin did attend, among others.
- We are re-forming a Structure Committee to continue this work. Alycia, Caty, Diana, Maria, Billy, Caitlin and Ellen expressed interested in working on this.
- The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 26th, from 8-9:30am at City Hall, Meeting Room 2. Kim, Caitlin and/or Nicole will attend and give an overview of what was presented at the ASC workshop last week. The meeting is open to anyone.

NHFPC Youth Internship Program

- Caitlin reported that eleven youth have already applied and applications are open for another month. Applications are diverse, coming from many different high schools.
- Caitlin is seeking out organizations that are interested in hosting a youth intern. Program scheduling to start in July, when school gets out – orientation, service learning experiences, helping them with advocacy projects.
- Tagan noted that we are putting together an advisory group of people who work with youth. Please let Caitlin know suggestions.
- Caitlin stated that there will likely be five internships, and that the Peabody Museum might be able to match funds.
- Anne suggested connecting the interns with the School Food Program; Tagan agreed. Caitlin noted that we need to think strategically about where the interns live and what they are interested to connect them with the right host organization.
- Maria noted that this involves getting good mentors. Caitlin agreed, saying that the program's success will depend on the individuals involved. She would like to reach out to organizations that are not already involved with NHFPC, as the internships are a good way to link peripheral organizations into our work.

Master Cooks Corps

- Tagan reported that she is recruiting for Master Cook Corps, a teacher-training program for cooks who want to teach.
- There will be two intensive weekend training sessions, twelve people in each class, in late April and early May.

Working Groups

Policy Advancement Committee – Alycia

- As described above, PAC is focused on the Food Systems Direction position and zoning issues.
- Karen Gilvarg of City Plan has expressed specific interest in healthy school zones. Alycia has a meeting scheduled with her on March 20th at 2:30pm – looking to City Plan to help us determine concrete next steps.
- Next PAC meeting is on Wednesday, April 2nd at 8:45am at City Hall. .

Food Assistance – Billy

- Working on Summer Food Program, as described above.
- Also working on a Neighborhood Food Guide, for completion by the beginning of summer.
- Have lobbied for the Commodities Supplemental Food Program; the CT delegation is on board and doing what it can.

Urban Agriculture – Maria

- NH Land Trust is seeking funding from NewAlliance Foundation for UARC; application submitted last Friday. Land Trust to be management of UARC.
- Melissa Spear, the WG's new co-chair is looking for policies to support Urban Ag – she has lots of zoning experience.

Cooking & Food Education – Tagan

- Working on Master Cooks Corps, as described above.
- Planning an event to feature Brian Perry, an Afro-American vegan cook book writer from SF Bay area. Yale is bringing him to New Haven and he wants to do a vegan potluck food event on Sunday, April 13th to talk about cooking and food. Looking to partner with Varick AME or Beulah Heights, both of which have food programs.

Economic Development – Phyllis

- Group is looking for a new name that will be more of an umbrella, inclusive of everyone's interests.
- The group needs to identify a co-chair for Phyllis.

School Food – Abby

- There were about 20 people at the School Food WG at the Annual Gathering -- heated discussion, but good jumping off point. Some of the items discussed will be pursued at next Monday's WG meeting.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

- "Green Drinks" & Rock-to-Rock at Chipotle tonight -- 50% of proceeds go to Rock-to-Rock.
 - CEIO workshops:
 - *Deeper Change Forum* on March 27th, 9-11:30am at NH Lawn Club
 - *Beyond Diversity 101 - 5-day Intensive*, free of charge to NHFPC/CitySeed, July 16-20 in Bangor, PA
 - CT Food Bank's Spring Walks Against Hunger, 1-3pm on May 4th at East Rock Park.
 - Save the Date: September 19th-20th Yale Divinity School's Nourish New Haven Conference (wants NHFPC involvement)
 - Newhallville Resilience Team, March 29th, 12-4pm
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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		
School Food	Monday, March 24 th	3:30-5:00pm	Neighborhood Housing Services 333 Sherman Avenue
Policy Advancement	Wednesday, April 2 nd	8:45-9:45am	City Hall, Meeting Room 1
Urban Agriculture	Friday, April 4 th	8:30-10:00am	City Hall, Meeting Room 3
Food Assistance	Friday, April 4 th	9:00-10:30pm	FISH of Greater New Haven 342 Ellsworth Avenue