



New Haven Food Policy Council

Meeting Minutes

July 17th, 2013

Attendees:

Council members: Tagan Engel, Frank Mitchell, Alycia Santilli, Dawn Slade, Anika Thrower

Affiliate and community members: Catherine Bradshaw, Caty Poole, Billy Bromage, Sonja Ahuja, Stephanie Boegeman, Jamilah Rasheed, Domingo Medina, Justine Appel, Austin Bryniarski, Jill Meyerhoff, Susan Weisselberg, Ellen Pendergast

Food & Health Forum with Mayoral candidates

Update on plans, results of PAC meetings held on July 8th

- Food & Health Forum taking place on Wednesday, July 31, 6:00-7:30pm at Beulah Heights Church in Dixwell.
- Mark Pazniokas of the CT Mirror will be moderator – has expertise in local and state politics.
- Next PAC/planning meeting today, following this meeting.

Review draft questions for candidates

- Mark will help us craft/organize questions once we have a draft of them.
- It appears that our forum format is unique from other debates in that we will have 15 minutes/question rather than several minutes for sound bites/talking points. There will be time for moderator to draw the candidates out. However, format only allows time for 4-5 questions.
- Potential categories: general food system, health and chronic disease, access to healthy food, hunger/food assistance, breast feeding, cooking & food education, school food, economic development. Tagan noted that school food is a hot topic; candidates are going to want to talk about it. Perhaps we should place it toward middle or end of forum so it doesn't take whole time. Anika noted that while breast feeding is important, it should be lower on the list than other questions that are less specific. Tagan stated that it's important to have a youth question but not just about school food; she will take up with Common Ground to get input.

One-on-one meeting with candidates

- Developed a set of policy recommendations that were sent to the candidates prior to the one-on-ones. Have had three thus far – Justin Elicker, Toni Harp, Kermit Carolina. Henry Fernandez is scheduled for Friday, July 19th. Sundiata Keitazulu had to cancel; hasn't been rescheduled.

Budget for forum – for approval

- \$375 was approved via online voting process among Council members.

FAP Implementation Priorities

- Alycia has spoken with both Jorge Perez, BoA President, and Al Lucas, Director of Legislative Services, and has sent the FAP to the Board of Alders for blanket approval and endorsement on their recommendation. Mr. Perez said the FAP will be brought up at their August meeting and assigned to a committee at that time, so we'll know more about where the process is headed after that.
- Alycia's ideas for policies to pursue -- healthy meeting standards, breast feeding resolution, healthy food zones, other zoning related issues, as well as others that will be discussed.

NHFPC Administration

Fiduciary update

- Treasurer not present for formal update. Tagan believes we still have about \$6,000 in the budget.

Structure Committee update

- Anika reported that the Structure Committee met on July 9th to review the functioning of the Working Groups. While Food Assistance and Cooking/Food Education groups are running smoothly, several others are struggling, specifically School Food and Economic Development. The School Food chair was a Food Corps person who is leaving; energy is there but someone with knowledge needs to take over. Economic Development -- there was a lot of crossover with Urban Ag; the Compost committee took over. Both WGs are on hold until someone takes them over. Urban Agriculture is running pretty well; could use a co-chair in place of Tagan.

- The Structure Committee is trying to determine from the Working Groups what support or alternatives they can provide so the groups can operate better and we can hone the skills of the people who run the groups.
- The Committee plans to update the original guidance document that was developed when the WGs were launched – the role of chairs, support needed, what is needed. The WG chairs are reviewing the original guidance document on a serial basis to provide their input. Billy offered to meet with the groups and talk about how his group has evolved.
- Sonja asked for suggestions as to how the Structure Committee could get information from the WG members – a survey, bring questions to group and discuss at WG, or some other way?
- Anika recommends defining the baseline requirements for the various aspects of the groups – the chair and co-chair must have basic strengths, time to devote. Expectations of chair to lead the group, co-chair, members, support required.
- Alycia noted that sustainability is the basic issue with the WGs. There is a need for a paid staff person to take over leadership; will have to pursue grants to fund. Also, partner with people who have jobs that cross-over and are able to lead WG as part of their job, as Billy does.
- Anika noted that there has been discussion of CitySeed taking over WG operation. Challenges are the same – WGs need redefinition, definition of relationship between CitySeed and NHFPC, paid staff person to lead groups.

Ad hoc committee for new Council member selection

- Three member seats are currently open. Anika has reached out to a number of people to find out if they are interested; needs contact information for other names that were floated.
- By-laws govern selection process – must be a New Haven resident, cannot serve on more than one board, etc. Areas for representation include hunger relief, nutrition, business, food management, farming, religious community. Must be available for meetings, provide input, participate in WG. Diversity is important.
- Anika will develop an ad hoc committee to meet with interested parties during July/August. Will prioritize a list of prospective members to bring back to Council. In addition, we need a prospective member who is interested in the secretary position. Both council and non-council members can be on ad hoc committee.

Update on Annual Report outline

- Outline will be based on that of the draft 2012 annual report after it is finalized.
- **Action**
 - Tagan and Ellen to finalize 2012 report.

Requests for support

New Haven Farms requests an endorsement for proposal to NH Park Commission to process compost for East Rock pilot Food Waste Compost Service in Edgerton Park. Detailed draft proposal presented by Domingo Medina.

- Tagan noted that the proposal is well considered, well developed and comprehensive.
- Two questions:
 - Will the NHFPC support the proposal?
 - Can we help facilitate working with the Mayor's office and Parks Department?
- Tagan indicated that Sherill Baldwin of DEEP has met with Rob Smuts of Public Works – they would support a pilot composting project; very open and supportive. Perhaps we could bring this proposal to them and they could help bring it to the Park Commission.
- **Action**
 - Domingo to forward PDF of proposal to Alycia.

Outreach support for East Shore Park celebration to honor those who built a native species garden to provide food for wildlife – September 15th, 1:00-4:00pm – requested by Lynne Bonnett

- NHFPC will support by promoting to our email list.
- **Action**
 - Ellen to confirm NHFPC's support with Lynne Bonnett.

Working Groups

Food Assistance -- Billy

- Last WG meeting was July 11th at United Way. Priority is to get Food Advocate Training proposal submitted to Community Foundation.
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program – for seniors, WIC eligible. SNAP has been taken out of Farm Bill. Delegation to meet with Rosa DeLauro at New Haven office to find out what she can do to help. Pat Wallace to represent seniors, Kate Ballantine the Food Bank, no council member involved? Anika and Diana work in supplemental and emergency food, perhaps one of them can become involved?
- During mayoral candidate one-on-ones, came up that New Haven summer food programs for kids are not comprehensive enough – could Council take that on for summer 2014, ideas for how to approach that? Board of Ed could open schools, etc. Interviews this Saturday for new school superintendent. Three, 1.5 hour interviews each.

Tagan to facilitate to get ideas to Gail Sherry. Summer food program hours/day are too short, only cover a few weeks rather than whole summer. Billy mentioned that a major concern is adolescent food security during the summer months.

Urban Agriculture – Jamilah

- Letter to the Mayor’s office for urban agriculture resource center – final draft was sent out by email.

Cooking & Food Education

- Workshop in garden on cooking this Friday – Catherine
- Tenille: Kids Kook
- Can we be more effective with cooking education if we pool resources and centralize (Common Ground, CitySeed, NH Land Trust)? Everyone is short on resources, funding. Anika inquired about collaborating more fully as a Cooking & Food Ed WG. Tagan indicated that this may be a challenge as WG members are involved with individual activities/projects.

Wellness Committee (Tagan)

- Wellness Manual is going out to the schools (e.g., physical movement shouldn’t be a punishment; food shouldn’t be a reward).
- Went into orientation packet.

Food Justice Youth Corps – VISTA (Tagan)

- Starting in August.
- Role is to facilitate leadership with youth and food justice.
- Tagan is seeking recommendations for organizations that work with food and youth groups (boys/girls club, Common Ground, CitySeed. Youth Services Dept. at City Hall has listing. Needs to be an adult who helps facilitate every year for sustainable efforts. Others?)

Half-day diversity training proposal (Anika)

- How to relate to organizations, come to common goals/ missions.
- CEIO offer retreats, leadership programs to New Haven organizations.
- September meeting; Sonja to help coordinate.
- Conference call with Anika, Nicole, to define a more detailed proposal for next meeting.
- Sonja mentioned that training would need to involve the pilot project entities Cityseed and NHFPC.
- Sonja noted that Nicole Berube participated in training, exposed to some of the material.
- Diversity workshop(s) – scheduled for October. Tentative dates will be available for September NHFPC meeting.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

- Pie on 9 Pie Contest on Friday, August 2nd, Ninth Square – benefit for CitySeed’s Food Stamp Double Value program.

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

Upcoming Meeting Dates for Working Groups:

Cooking & Food Education	Monday, September 16 th	6:00pm-7:30pm	City Hall, Meeting Room 2
Economic Development/Food Business	Meet w/ Urban Ag Working Group		
Food Assistance	Thursday, September 5th	4:00pm-5:30pm	Stop & Shop, Whalley Avenue
School Food	On hiatus pending new leadership		
Urban Agriculture	Thursday, September 12th	8:30am-10:00am	City Hall, Meeting Room 3