



New Haven Food Policy Council (NHFPC)

Meeting Minutes September 18th, 2013

Items Voted on:

1. **CATY POOLE, OF MASSARO FARM, NOMINATED AS COUNCIL MEMBER, APPROVED BY NHFPC.**
2. **NHFPC TO JOIN GET HEALTHY CT COALITION AS FOOD ACTION WORKING GROUP, APPROVED BY NHFPC.**
3. NHFPC endorsement requested for New Haven Farms proposal to NH Park Commission to process compost for East Rock pilot Food Waste Compost Service in Edgerton Park
(ITEM VOTED ON BY NHFPC MEMBERS VIA EMAIL – APPROVED BY NHFPC).

Attendees:

Council members: Tagan Engel, Frank Mitchell, Diana Richter, Alycia Santilli, Dawn Slade, Anika Thrower, Maria Tupper

Affiliate and community members: Catherine Bradshaw, Billy Bromage, Cara Donovan, Robin Golden, Nadine Nelson, Sarah Tracy-Wanck, Sonja Ahuja, Abby Shelton, Fred Reppun, Zoe Lloyd, Hannah Croasmun, Caitlin Aylward, Emily Marshall, Adriel Infantino, Phyllis Haynes, Jamilah Rasheed, Katrina Kazda, Lusingu Kayani, Ellen Pendergast

NHFPC Administration

Fiduciary update

- Diana did not obtain a formal budget report from Nicole since she has been out for several weeks. The budget has likely not changed significantly within the last several months. The primary expenditure is salary support for administrative staff.

Ad hoc committee for new member selection update

- Anika noted that there are currently three open Council seats (includes Rob Friedman, who remains on the Council until a replacement member is found); the committee has approached a short list of prospective members and requested a letter of interest and resume or other supporting documentation from them.
- Caty Poole expressed interest in joining the Council. She has been an active participant for a year or more, is executive director of Massaro Farm, which donates food to people in need in New Haven and Woodbridge and manages a CSA. Members agreed that Caty is a good fit, particularly because it is unusual to find someone who represents a farm who is also a New Haven resident, which is a City requirement.
- **CALLED FOR VOTE ON CATY POOLE BECOMING COUNCIL MEMBER, APPROVED BY NHFPC.** Caty was not present for the vote, but the Council agreed it was appropriate to vote.
- The committee will continue to recruit new members, with emphasis on people of color, faith-based group, food business, school food representation for open seat. If there are any suggestions from group, please let Anika know.

New/alternate meeting time for monthly NHFPC meetings

- NHFPC is considering alternate times of day for meetings in order to attract additional members and potential participants who are unable to attend a meeting during business hours. Robin noted that we consistently get a high turnout for a meeting that occurs monthly at 8:00am.
- Ran out of time to discuss further – will table for the next meeting.

Review of CEIO Capacity Building/Training Proposal - presented by Anika, Sonja

- NHFPC and CitySeed are a year and half into their pilot grant program with CEIO, which included funding and a team of capacity builders; the relationship will formally end at the end of March 2014.
- CEIO has been working with NHFPC's Structure Committee and executive committee to clarify the Council's organization and operational structure. Now that we are in the last few months of this program, members have asked CEIO to identify a variety of opportunities open to the pilot partnership organizations. Sonja and colleague Ingrid Lakey developed a proposal containing various options responding to themes and issues that have come up during our work together. These themes and issues were described in our grant application. Sonja outlined the proposal for partnership organizations and active affiliates.
- Comments/suggestions to move forward: Anika asked if there been any feedback from CitySeed. Sonja requested input from Lisa Holmes and Nicole Berube; both have been away and have not been able to respond

as yet. Diana noted that identity clarification continues to be a priority for our work and that she would be in favor of more specific training that applies directly to our group's work. Tagan indicated that she would be happy with any/all of the programs but given the time period, should focus on identity clarification and WG training series. Catherine noted that there is a lot to know and understand about group dynamics; perhaps we could combine some of these training components to be more inclusive of these topics. Anika noted that while the specific topics of identity clarification and mission effectiveness are important, we should make a conscious effort to include sessions that deal with engaging a racially diverse community, like the *Let's Talk About Race* training. Anika noted a discussion among Nicole, Sonja and herself, during which Nicole suggested the topic of communication styles for inclusion in the *Let's Talk About Race* training.

- Sonja noted that different programs can be directed to different audiences. Tagan suggested that identity clarification would make sense for members and affiliates to attend, and WG training would be most useful for Working Group chairs and participants; leadership development would be a natural follow-up.
- A "Core Group" is being formed to make decisions on moving forward and identify priorities. Alycia, Diana, Anika, Catherine, Cara volunteered. Tagan and Robin also volunteered for future work in the Core Group after details of training program design are decided.
- **Actions**
 - Sonja to provide a new draft of the proposal based on feedback obtained.
 - Sonja and Ellen to organize/schedule next meetings of Core Group.

Policy Advancement Committee (PAC) - Alycia

Brief recap of July 31st Food Forum with Mayoral candidates

- 160 people attended, candidates were engaged, had a lot to say, many good ideas were expressed.

Update on conversation(s) with Jorge Perez re: seeking BoA official endorsement of the FAP

- FAP has been assigned to alders' human services committee, which is meeting is next Wednesday, September 25th at 6:15pm at City Hall Aldermanic Chambers. They have asked NHFPC to present FAP to committee. Tagan, Alycia, Catherine, others to present. Important for community members to attend meeting, as well, to show support for NHFPC and FAP.

Committee's next steps: Ending Hunger in New Haven

- PAC meeting was held on Friday, September 6th to select policy items for the Council to pursue. Discussed a policy "platform" focused on Ending Hunger in New Haven, which would incorporate access to healthy food. Three primary areas: food assistance, urban agriculture and school food (school food will take longer, with the new Food Services director). This is an initial idea for discussion.
- Concern was raised about platform's lack of focus on cooking and food education; we need to emphasize choosing healthy food at pantries, how to cook the food that is provided there. Alycia indicated that cooking and food education will be an underlying theme of the platform. She favors a multi-pronged approach that includes both behavioral and infrastructure improvement – availability of and access to healthy food (e.g., corner stores). Tagan suggested that perhaps we should sidebar school food for now and bring food education into the platform?
- The platform and discussion will be further discussed at the next PAC meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday, October 15th at 9AM at City Hall.

Get Healthy CT

- Jeannette Ickovics, Director of CARE, presented GHCT coalition, its goals and opportunity for NHFPC to be involved.
- This is a city-wide effort that is just getting started and an opportunity for NHFPC to become involved. Jeannette and Althea Marshall Brooks, New Haven's Community Services Administrator, are co-chairs of the New Haven group. Main focus is obesity and chronic disease prevention. Primary partners are the City, Yale-New Haven Hospital and CARE.
- Program began in Bridgeport with some success – developed a website, connections, visibility to programs, policies, are getting information out.
- CARE conducted a community health needs assessment in 2009; identified that 7 of 10 in six low resource neighborhoods are overweight or obese. High rate of heart disease, diabetes; health inequities that include much more serious health consequences for people with low incomes. Resulted in community health improvement plan, part of the Affordable Care Act.
- Objective of coalition is to link up resources that already exist. The three primary areas of focus are nutrition, physical activity and infrastructure. They propose that the NHFPC/FAP become the nutrition group, and therefore create another venue for distribution of the Council's work and information.
- GHCT kick-off is next Wednesday, September 25, 2013 from 8AM - 2PM at Beulah Heights Church. To include a challenge in honor of the City's 375th anniversary for city residents to lose a total of 375,000 lbs.

- Organizations involved include CARE, Yale/New Haven Hospital, New Haven CSA, Parks & Recreation Dept., YMCA, DataHaven, Chamber of Commerce.
- Comments/suggestions: “Nutrition” is too narrow a word to describe NHFPC’s involvement. Diana noted that nutrition does not encompass food assistance. Tagan said that this has already been discussed and the intention is for the NHFPC to represent food action, not nutrition. Jeannette stated that the NHFPC’s representation in this coalition is intended not to interfere in but support and advance its work. All components of the FPC are to be included – economic development, urban agriculture, food assistance, etc. Tagan noted that this coalition is a step toward the city taking ownership of these issues, a major step in the trajectory of this work over the years. Jeannette noted that the NHFPC’s work won’t have to change; this is another way to lift it up, obtain new financial and human resources, strengthens what we are already doing. Frank asked about reporting mechanisms to indicate progress. Jeannette agreed that this is important. Bridgeport has monthly working group meetings, WG chairs meeting together every other month. There are quarterly steering committee meetings that Alycia and Anika will attend.
- **CALLED FOR VOTE ON NHFPC JOINING GET HEALTHY CT COALITION, APPROVED BY FPC.**

Working Groups – Brief update from chair

Food Assistance - Billy

Food Advocate Training is taking place on October 26th at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church.

- Includes legislative advocacy, telling stories, 11 hour activism session. Will be attending FPC/WG meetings to keep them involved in and informing our work. They will be paid \$12.50/hr.
- Developing a color flyer -- where should we put them? Applications are due on October 11th. Tagan suggested Common Ground and Caitlin (VISTA) for distribution to teens and their families. Catherine noted that NH Farms is having a celebration on October 2nd, a good place to promote this. Billy reminded us that we are looking for people in New Haven who are ready to advocate, who already have an activist mindset. Tagan suggested outreach through the alders, especially Carlton Staggers, who was able to get a lot of people to apply for the kitchen inventory project very quickly.

Update on federal advocacy efforts

- Representatives from FAWG met with Kimberly Junior, a senior aide for Rosa DeLauro on August 29th. Requested assistance to get commodity supplemental food program funding, a USDA program that provides shelf stable food to low income seniors. CT okay-ed the program in 2011 but the funding has yet to come through.
- Pat Wallace is advocating for a farmers market nutrition program for seniors.
- SNAP -- Rosa is against cuts in Congress to SNAP; coming to a vote in House; important for people to comment on social media. Activists at Yale are involved in effort.

Urban Agriculture - Jamilah

- Letter advocating for Urban Ag WG to be City’s urban agriculture resource center was sent to Mayor’s Office in late August; have not heard back as yet.
- Group has expressed interest in organizing a lead/metals workshop.
- Catherine noted that there is some controversy around the Ivy St garden greenhouse project, something we should be aware of.

Cooking & Food Education – Nadine, Cara

- Working to bring Soul Food Junkies film/director to New Haven this fall.
- Received funds from the Health Department grant – programs will be starting this fall.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS – 5 minutes

- Get Healthy CT/New Haven launch on Wednesday, September 25, 2013 with a kick-off meeting from 8AM - 2PM at Beulah Heights Church

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

Upcoming Meeting Dates for Working Groups:

Cooking & Food Education	Monday, October 21 st (tentative)	6:00pm-7:30pm	City Hall
Economic Development/Food Business	Meet w/ Urban Ag Working Group		
Food Assistance	Friday, October 4 th	9:00am-10:30am	Stop & Shop, Whalley Avenue
School Food	TBA	6:00pm-7:30pm	Neighborhood Housing Services
Urban Agriculture	Thursday, October 10 th	8:30am-10:00am	City Hall