



New Haven Food Policy Council

New Haven Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes September 15, 2010

Council member attendees: Michael Jones, Moses Boone, Tagan Engel, Roberta Friedman, Maria Tupper, Fred Cofrancesco

Guests: Dr. Chisara Asomugha, Dana Barnes, Eling Tsai, Kathryn Schneider, Alycia Santilli, Maeve Rafferty, Justin Elicker, Anne Sansel

Guest

- Dr. Chisara Asomugha
 - Community Services Dept of New Haven
 - Health Matters! Commission: umbrella group from wide spectrum of city to improve health outcomes in NH
 - The Health matters group is available to the council to partner or assist on issues impacting health in NH
 - NH ranked bottom of rung with particular health issues
 - Change way we talk about health, what has an impact on it
 - Beginning media messaging plan
 - Create new policies that will elevate health status
 - School change:
 - BOOST, looks at parental engagement, academic achievement, health
 - Developing assessment tools
 - Roberta Friedman is on Health Matters commission representing the FPC

Announcements

- Minutes have been added to the website; we'll work on revamping website next
- Mark Winne (founder of CT Food Policy Council, now at North American Food Policy Council FPC sponsoring event with him— September 27th 6:30pm Library)
- Elm City Market - Food Coop coming to 360 State St building.
 - Some FPC members are on advisory board
 - Community information meeting
 - Oct. 6th meeting at Hillhouse High School
 - Want wide range of people to attend to get initial members— spread the word
- Common Ground Meeting Aug 10, 2010
 - Goal: pull together those in NH doing food/agriculture work to find ways for children in NH to have direct experiences with food/ag
 - Areas to address: continuum of curriculum for children through school years; change behavior related to food choices
 - Looking for more to be involved
 - How FPC can be involved
 - No comprehensive nutrition education in schools now—piecemeal at this point.
 - FPC could make recommendation that this be developed; bring in outside resources to help develop school gardens.
 - Help them develop community resources

Council Projects

New Haven Food Policy

- Our latest version is straying from SF model— needs to be simplified
- Dana Barnes – MPH Rudd Center intern will work with us this semester to refine policy
 - Is researching other cities
- Next steps
 - Council will give input on existing food policy

- Frank Mitchell will continue working on food systems map

Local Policy Improvements

Seattle food policy changes

- Addresses food security, has specific plans (zoning, education, ordinances allowing urban farms to sell produce, small-scale farming/composting, safety certification for certain local foods—insurance issue)
- How can FPC identify specific policies to work on?
 - Find community members and groups to speak to
 - Identify discreet number of issues
 - Identify barriers
 - Catherine Bradshaw is gathering information on background process in Seattle—barriers, current regulations (zoning); is in contact with Seattle city council member who has worked on this

Local specific policy ideas:

- Zoning issues
- Farmers' markets
- Community gardens
- School food (local: purchasing and funding policy)
- Food processing and distribution policies and tax incentives

State and Federal Policy – look at the impact of larger policy on these issues as well

Healthy Corner Store Initiative

- Alycia Santilli—CARE (Community Alliance for Research and Engagement at Yale) Deputy Director working on this; in three neighborhoods (Chatham Sq., Hill North, West River); working with corner stores to stock/market healthier foods, rearrange their stores to better promote buying.
- Issues include
 - Access to produce
 - Zoning (facilitators, barriers)
 - Tax incentives
 - Percentage of food to be locally sourced
 - Small stores have no access to bulk produce. Owners buy at full price. Will new Co-op help solve this?
- Need research on other municipalities and what they've done; list of what is appropriate for NH.
 - Good timing: NH is about to rewrite their City Plan; Alders will be in support of good ideas because of Shaws leaving.

City Gardens

- New Haven Land Trust has resources
 - Land Trust only owns small percentage of community gardens—need to get permanent ownership so city doesn't repossess gardens when developers want to move in; tax issue
- Maria Tupper will gather information on barriers to city gardening
 - What have other cities done? What are the solutions for NH?

Local food sources

- Tagan Engel will speak to Tim Cipriano (School Chef) re: bids for food; what are barriers to getting local foods, and Justin Freiberg re: certifications needed to sell locally grown foods to restaurants, and Erin Wirpsa re: policy barriers for farmers' markets and sales of locally grown food.

Other initiatives

- Nutrition standards for fast food meals sold with incentives (toys + coupons)
 - Justin Elicker, Michael Jones and Roberta Friedman met to discuss steps toward introducing legislation to Board
 - Santa Clara County, CA ordinance recently passed: any fast food meals sold with incentives (e.g., toys) must meet good nutrition standards or incentive cannot be included
 - CARE has data on six neighborhoods and how many fast food restaurants exist
 - Considerations
 - Do we focus it only on kids' meals?

- Need to get community endorsement for it to work
 - FPC will endorse, help with outreach when time comes
- Food Access/ Food Deserts
 - FPC currently addressing these issues through membership on Elm City Coop board
- Composting
 - Michael Jones, Alderman working on this with Eling Tsai, Rudd Center intern
 - Looking at Portland Composts program
 - Have set of criteria to target businesses, based on type
 - Marketing program, encourages businesses to compost
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 - Composting issues in NH:
 - West Haven facility only composts leaves, not food scraps
 - City has free compost bins available (better kind for leaves than food)
 - CT has only one permit to compost food scraps off site; facility is in New Milford
 - Could we set a compost site up on a NH brownfield?
 - Goal: in next 10 years, have people composting in backyards and citywide collection for businesses and homes that can't do backyard composting
 - City will focus first on improving recycling program, then composting

Additional items

- Tagan will send out next actionable steps, and send out reminders to FPC
- We can take up to 15 council members; need more names
 - School food service worker
 - Major supermarkets
 - Key business leaders
 - Community health centers

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 20, 2010
8:00 am - 10:00pm, Meeting Room 3, City Hall

Minutes respectfully submitted by Roberta Friedman