



# New Haven Food Policy Council

## Minutes

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### New Haven Food Policy Council Minutes

January 19, 2011

**Members present:** Diana Richter, Tagan Engel, Moses Boone, Maria Tupper, Michael Jones, Fred Cofrancesco, Frank Mitchell, Monique Centrone

**Official attendees present:** Melissa Waldron, Catherine Bradshaw, Alycia Santilli, Katheryn Schnider

#### Updates

- NHFPC budget

Tagan has submitted a 2-year \$7,000 budget to the city and is awaiting approval.

- Healthy Meals Ordinance

A small group (Justin Elicker, Tagan Engel, Roberta Friedman, Robin Golden) met to discuss next steps of the Healthy Meals Ordinance. Corporate Accountability International (<http://www.stopcorporateabuse.org>) has supported similar efforts in various cities pro bono; they have offered to help New Haven push this ordinance. The group decided to hold off on advocating for the ordinance until the food policy plan (FPP) is finalized. The FPP will provide a platform from which to advocate.

- Fair Haven Farm progress

Rebecca Kline from Fair Haven Health Clinic convened a group of people to discuss the possibility of starting an urban farm in Fair Haven. They are now meeting regularly, and are calling themselves The Fair Haven Farm Coalition. The Coalition is discussing the vision and goals. Goals, thus far, include providing nutritious foods to the Fair Haven community while offering microenterprise opportunities to neighborhood residents. Melissa Waldron has been accepted into a training program, Growing Power, about developing urban farms. She will bring this knowledge to use in Fair Haven. They are currently exploring land procurement options in Fair Haven. Diana Richter suggested that Melissa reach out to Cold Spring School.

- Food and Faith conference

Catherine Bradshaw and Moses Boone attended the Food and Faith conference in Hamden organized by the Eco Justice Network. There were several excellent presentations from Urban Oaks, Hartford Food Policy Council and Adema Farm. The panel was followed by break-out groups, which included integrating food issues and education into congregations. Moses has recently joined an inter-religious environmental network, a group concerned about focusing faith-based organizations on environmental issues. Kim Stone from NOFA, Carolyn Carey and Bonita Grubbs of Interfaith Cooperative Ministries (ICM), are possible contacts to consult with on our food policy plan.

Action: contact ICM to invite to FPC meetings and find advisor for FPP.

- FPC Conference in May, proposals wanted

The Community Food Security Coalition, led by Mark Winne, is holding their yearly Food Policy Council conference on May 19-21, 2011 in Portland, OR. The theme is Food Policy from Neighborhood to Nation. They are seeking workshop proposals for the conference's ten tracks.

Action: Council members are encouraged to submit workshop proposals..

### Council Projects and Topics

#### 1. Council Membership – open seats and attendance requirements

Open Seats: City Seed's and the CT Food Bank's seats are open. There is interest from the CT Food Bank in filling their seat, but they do not currently have staff who are New Haven residents. It was suggested that the Food Bank can participate as an official attendee (participating, non-voting members ).

2.The Council agreed we should have a voting, student representative on the council. Common Ground will bring several interested students to the next meeting. Because Common Ground is a charter school and does not participate in New Haven's school lunch program, It was suggested we also look for a student representative from a non-charter NHPS.

There should also be a focus on diversifying the council.

Attendance requirements: the only city requirement is to track attendance at meetings; there is no attendance requirement.. The chair stressed the importance of council members attending regularly, particularly now that the Council is taking substantive action on several projects.

NAACP health committee formation: there is currently no health committee at the NAACP, and they are seeking to revive this committee. It was suggested we have a Food Policy Councilmember serve sit on, and serve as a liaison to the committee Possible community members for that committee: Shanta Evans, LeShae Peyton, Wendy Battles..

Action: contact NAACP to inquire about the nature of the health committee before doing the work to help bring that together.

Official Attendees Invitation: Frank volunteered to draft a letter of invitation.

#### • Food System Map, Arts & Ideas, community discussions

Monique reported that she has been conducting background research on food systems. She found only one meta-analysis of existing food systems. Focus should be a stakeholders-focused map. Another focus could be health-related. Monique is also exploring funding possibilities for the mapping project. She is in touch with a web developer. The Hunger Free grant was suggested as a possibility. Concern was expressed about how much energy and resources this project will take and, subsequently, if it's the right project for the Council to work on. How will this project help us to address hunger and food access? Monique pointed out that the food system is mentioned frequently in the Council's food policy plan; in order to address issues about it, we must first understand and analyze our current system. It was suggested that this would fit in well with the Hunger Free grant, and that the central goal of the map should be for children to understand the food system. The goals and priorities of this project need to be prioritized.

**Comment [11]:** I don't know what this means, which means that the average reader of these minutes, on-line, won't know either. Please clarify.

Action: Diana will gather more info on the Hunger grant for next month. Monique and Frank will meet to further map out the project and detail how it will help to address the crucial food issues facing NH residents. Monique will email the food system maps with comments and ideas for the rest of the council to review.

- **Food Policy Plan**– review and discussion, subcommittee creation

The Food Policy Plan needs some focused attention from a subcommittee. Tagan, Monique, Moses, Roberta and Alycia volunteered. A half-day retreat for the entire council may take place in the future to finalize the plan.

Action: subcommittee will meet to refine FPP and discuss advisors to bring on board.

- **Ten priorities of the Food Policy Council, which will be announced at the Health Matters *Visioning a Healthier New Haven* conference, January 27, 2011.**

The Council selected these priorities to present at the conference.

- Improving food system through production, policy, access, education...
- Creating innovative ways to bring food to underserved areas and residents: low-income neighborhoods, seniors, etc.
- Promoting education about food and nutrition through community and school based programs.
- Improving connections between local farms and city food businesses and institutions procuring food.
- Supporting community gardens and local food production through ordinances and zoning.
- Promoting appealing healthy foods and meal choices aimed at children in local restaurants.
- Promoting the consumption of water instead of sugary drinks such as soda.
- Supporting the creation of more food production facilities and food-related small businesses in New Haven
- Ensure the water quality and safety of our water sources and work to eliminate harmful environmental impacts on our water and land.

Action: Katie Schneider volunteered to look into the promotion of nutrition requirements for the SNAP and WIC programs

Conference participants will be asked to give feedback on this list of priorities. Two additional questions will also be included for further input.

#### **Other**

- A coalition of transportation folks received a \$50,000 grant to increase quality of public transportation.

Action: Alder Mike Jones will ask Al Lucas to look into this.

- We will add the Hunger Free grant onto the agenda for next month.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 16th, 2011**

**8:00 am – 9:45am, Meeting Room 3, City Hall**