



# New Haven Food Policy Council

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## Meeting Minutes October 19, 2011

**Members Present :** Tagan Engel, Roberta Friedman, Diana Richter, Maria Tupper, Anika Johnson

**Affiliates and guests present:** Jonathan Dech, Christine Dang-Vu, Joel Toleman, Jaqueline Lewin, Virinda Manglik, Catherine Bradshaw, Jeff Hardin, Christina Wakefield, Cara Donovan, Anne Somsel, Justin Freiberg, Mark Bomford, Samara Brock, Melissa Waldron, Sherry Grant, Alycia Santilli, Emma Simson, Laura DPH

**Staff:** Ashley Kremser

### Welcome

- Introductions
- Additions to the agenda - none

### Food Day – [fooday.org](http://fooday.org) and [foodaynh.org](http://foodaynh.org)

- Participate in a local events
  - Three Yale interns are helping to organize food day
  - A number of entities are hosting events including the Fair Haven Clinic, WIC offices, Soup Kitchen, Health Department, Common Ground, Cooking Matters.
  - Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen on 311 Temple St. is hosting a Dine to end Hunger at the Food Kitchen. Participants will go through the soup kitchen the way their guest would. Followed by a Q&A. \$10 cost, Saturday, 5:00pm start time. Having issues procuring donated food for the event (first time local vendors and farmers have been contacted in this way).
- Spread the word about food day to increase more small neighborhood or family events.

### Youth Coalition Meeting – next meeting Wednesday November 2, 3:30-5pm

- Update on first meeting held October 12 - Youth Coalition has started! Official youth member James Beech has been sworn in. Lydia Bornack, from the citywide youth coalition, is helping to organize meetings. There are four schools participating and 8 students from the Sound School, Common Ground, High School in the Community and Hill House met since the last meeting. Their meeting focused on next steps, what projects they would like to initiate and how they can connect with the food policy council.
- Moving forward – NHFPC member involvement - All are welcome to join, the meetings are scheduled for the first Wed. of the month at the public library downtown at 3:30.

## **Food Policy Plan**

- Board of Aldermen meeting attended
- Draft completed this week

Catharine Bradshaw has recently started working on the plan. The plan, until about 6 months ago, had been drafted and compiled by interns, it is now in the council's hands and is being crafted into its final form.

Diana made some noteworthy comments about how hunger was addressed in the plan. Although hunger was addressed, it was under sustainability rather than food access. In general, the draft has been significantly reorganized.

The first two pages include the overall high level strategies, the last few pages are the action steps related to those strategies. There are three goal areas:

- Increase access and availability of healthy food to all people – really about addressing obesity, hunger and malnutrition
- Strengthen the local food economy
- Improve the food environment in schools

There are a total of 17 strategies. The plan should really be seen as a preliminary document that exists to lay out some high level strategies that the city needs to address immediately.

Work is being done on simplifying the plan so that briefings can be conducted more easily.

Emergency Food services is now better highlighted in the plan. Some strategies include increase the amount of donations to emergency food providers. Increasing the enrollment in WIC/SNAP and doubling its value at farmers markets.

Supporting parents and healthy food choices is another strategy. Breastfeeding and a supportive environment are stressed. This is important because it is the first decision made regarding your child's health and nutrition.

A question on whether prenatal care should be included was posed.

Another strategy added was improving food access to seniors in city operated centers. City should be encouraged to take ownership regarding the level of nutrition of seniors in city run centers.

Strengthen the local food economy –

It is recommended that a more extensive food access plan be developed.

Tagan met with the Economic Development Corporation. They are in the process of evaluating the Mill River and Long Warf. They are also performing an evaluation of our food business environment and evaluating opportunities for growth, primarily in the food processing sector.

FPC is connecting with groups like the Chamber of Commerce and EDC to make some immediate changes in food business and in long term planning.

Some action items include: zoning to encourage more urban farms, establishing small loans and micro loans to start city based agri buisnessess and compile a list of vacant lots or land that could be potentially used for farming.

The plan also encourages the city to promote and sign on to Community Supported Agriculture and Community Supported Market shares in order to connect and support local farms.

Encourages large institutions to buy/use regional grown food.

Tagan and Catharine met with Mary Dale DeBor one of the founders of Plow to Plate. She identified a potential leverage point; hospitals are tax exempt and are mandated to give back to the community. This point could be used to encourage the hospitals to shift to purchasing more locally grown food.

Food policy council has been working closely with schools' District Wellness Committee. Some ideas include creating a healthy food zone around schools.

- Send to designer
- Community outreach November
- Discuss whether to submit this Fall or next session

The next draft will include the work of a graphic designer, once this draft is in place, we will work on getting input from the community over a 3 week period, and then a final draft will be presented to Board of Alderman.

There is a survey that will be distributed regarding the goals and strategies of the policy plan. It should be ready for distribution on Food Day. The question was asked if we should include an optional section for names (alderman, etc) or include a place to collect demographic information. Joel wonders if the survey could be more specific so that more concrete data could be obtained.

We will hold a second training that will cover talking points of the plan. All interested in doing outreach, documenting feedback or participating in the training should contact Tagan.

A survey was created to facilitate this outreach. Revisions will be made in a committee meeting this afternoon. Document should be translated.

Catherine is looking for specific statistics on hunger and food insecurity in New Haven. A suggestion was made to check United way. The census has good data. Department of Public Health might have some data on BMI stats.

- Create an internal document about how to implement FPP

### **NHFPC Mission Statement Revision – see reverse for old and new statements**

- Review old mission statement and new proposed statement for website and informational materials
  - No vote occurred - no quorum.
  - Suggestion was made to take out “The New Haven Food Policy council’s mission is to...” so that it reads “To build and maintain...”
  - Suggestion was made to take “policies will be informed by...” into new statement. Possibly incorporate this sentence under goals.

### **Food Policy Council Functioning**

- Divide responsibilities
  - Take minutes/ post to website – Rob
  - Website and informational materials – Frank, Anika and Moses
  - Youth coalition – Tagan will pass around a sign up sheet

Council members need to meet to go over above responsibilities. Maria suggests that there should be a separate meeting of council members to go over roles of council members. Alicia suggestions to maybe change the bylaws to reflect membership duties.

### **Next Food Policy Council Meeting Wednesday November 16, 2011 - 8 - 9:45am City Hall Meeting Room #3**

### **Old Mission Statement:**

#### Vision

**The New Haven Food Policy Council advocates for good food for everyone, because better food builds a better city!**

#### Mission

A diverse array of stakeholders from all aspects of our city’s food system will collaborate to improve policy addressing the environmental, economic, social and nutritional health of the City of New Haven. Policies will be informed by food system realities: access, production, distribution, consumption, processing, recycling, education and emergency food services.

#### Goals

1. Advocate and advise on food policy implementation.
2. Develop strategies to enhance the environmental, economic, social and nutritional health of the City of New Haven.
3. Compile information to educate residents and community leaders about our local food system.

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### **New Proposed Mission Statement**

## Vision

**“Good food for everyone, because better food builds a better city!”**

## Our Mission

The mission of the New Haven Food Policy Council is to build and maintain a food system that nourishes all people in a just and sustainable manner.

## We Improve Our Food System By: or say “food environment” or “Our Goals”

- Building coalitions and fostering cooperation between community groups, residents, and city offices
- Developing strategies to enhance the nutritional, environmental, economic, and social health of the City of New Haven
- Compiling information to educate residents and community leaders

## **Possible additions:**

1. Advocating and advising on food policy and implementation
2. Establishing strategies that effectively address food access, hunger, obesity, community development, economic development, urban agriculture, food waste, and nutrition and food education