



New Haven Food Policy Council

Minutes, October 20, 2010

Present:

Official Council Members: Tagan Engel, Roberta Friedman, Phaedra Ebron, Diana Richter, Fred Cofrancesco, Alderman Justin Elicker, Frank Mitchell, Erin Eisenberg, Maria Tupper, Moses Boone

Official Attendees: Mario Garcia, Dana Barnes, Eling Tsai, Anne Somsel, Caitlin Olson, Melissa Waldron, Catherine Bradshaw, Jennifer Gaddis, Catherine Schneider, Alycia Santilli

Announcements

- Chefs Move to Schools/ Health Heroes
 - public school initiatives launching today at Barnard School
 - Minutes approved by email and posted to website
 - Elm City Market update
 - Public meeting held; Frank Mitchell, Erin Eisenberg, and Tagan Engel on core leadership team; giving feedback on what community needs; store accepting memberships now—need 300 to qualify for first round of funding

Council Projects Updates:

- Mark Winne event and meeting – founded nation’s first food policy council in Hartford
 - Recommendations for council
 - Council visibility – write letters to Mayor and other city offices, press releases re: our accomplishments, resolutions, works-in-progress, events
 - Helps create partnerships
 - Helps with grant writing—letters of reference
 - Create Official Council members and Official Attendees list, post on web
 - Begin coalition building – connect with local and state wide (CT Local Food Summit) – CT Food Policy Council
 - New London interested in starting a council
- Healthy Meals Ordinance –Alderman Justin Elicker
 - Would mandate that meals sold with incentives or toys for children meet good nutrition standards
 - Santa Clara County, CA passed an ordinance; San Francisco, CA considering it
 - Consulting with national organization (NPLAN) which has a model ordinance
 - Justin meeting with Yale Law School Clinic re: legalities
 - Discussing other ordinances to affect childhood obesity as well
 - Backlash?: cheap way to get calories; controversial
 - Need to have public campaign if we go forward with this—public testifying, press releases, testimony, letters to editors
- Food Policy – Dana Barnes (Yale student writing food policy draft)
 - Gathering policies from around the country to use as models
 - Focusing on “food system”—production, consumption, disposal
 - Will include current state of food in New Haven, policy recommendations
 - Members will get draft for feedback

- Composting –Eling Tsai (Yale intern for semester)
 - Writing policy brief focusing on commercial composting
 - Looking at other cities’ policies
 - Will include
 - Environmental benefits
 - Economic analysis
 - Ten-year plan: because NH is not ready for city-wide residential composting (single stream is happening only in Westville) need to create stepped plan (from residential to commercial)
- School Gardens – Chamber of Commerce Leadership Training Program –Tagan Engel & other council members
 - Creating a School Garden Guide: how to build one A-to-Z
 - New gardens starting at Martinez in Fair Haven, and Jepson
 - Council can help support
 - Important to include children/staff in schools early on—ownership
 - Issue: how managed over summer
 - Kids learn about vegetables; parents need to learn how to cook them
 - Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen has student-run garden
 - Ties in with Kids/Food/Farms group whose goal is to build a continuum of experience for kids in K-12.
 - Can it be tied in with Summer Work Program? Park and Rec?—Chamber of Commerce Leadership Group could research
- School Food Purchasing/City Bids – Tagan Engel
 - Tagan met with Tim Cipriano, NHPS Chef
 - For all food orders that go out to bid, required to take lowest bid
 - Precedent with other bids to give preference to New Haven businesses—can take bid from NH business if within 10%
 - Potentially do this with food, to support CT local agriculture
 - Locally grown food could be written into RFPs (request for proposal) bid, so Tim can lock in with local growers
 - Tim needs description from us
- Food Systems Map – Frank Mitchell
 - Creating map of our food system and all ways people can interact with it— organizations, business, government etc. Integrates food within all these areas.
 - Have a lot of data, need editing; living document
 - We need to consider this on a larger scale, as an interactive media project
 - Need funds, partner (Peabody Museum?), designer
 - Do on line, at museums
 - Would raise our profile
 - Would fit well with a grant that Diana Richter is exploring for us (Hunger-Free Grant)
- Community Gardens – Maria Tupper
 - Spoke with Chris Randall at New Haven Land Trust—doesn’t know of any regulations governing gardens in NH
 - We’re looking nation-wide for policies, ordinances
 - Maria is working on Adapting in Place conference happening this weekend

- Other follow-ups: Seattle policy ideas
 - Seattle: passed laws to support local urban agriculture; we can learn from their process, regulations, barriers encountered etc.
 - They had a council member devoted to this, with staff
 - Created a Local Food and Agriculture Initiative
 - Community engagement is key
 - Removed barriers to allow: more farmers' markets; increased size of greenhouses; rooftop gardening; people able to sell produce grown in backyards
 - Need to think through unintended consequences, e.g. be careful not to compete with local CT farmers; how to include EBT/WIC/SNAP
- Guest: Dr. Mario Garcia, Director of Public Health for New Haven
 - Came from State DPH, oversaw WIC, nutrition issues, SNAP education, obesity
 - Will continue focus on nutrition in New Haven; working on Healthy Corner Stores Initiative with CARE
- Additional topics to address next meeting:
 - City Wide Food/Nutrition Curriculum (CFP grant?)
 - City Plan – 100-year revision
 - Grant planning—USDA FNS Hunger Free Community Initiatives Grant
 - Party
- **Food Policy Council Members Discussion** – closed session, council members only
 - Funding and structure of council (CFP and city money)
 - Staffing
 - Caitlin Olsen has volunteered to staff us for the year; requested travel reimbursement—the group agreed
 - Council membership
 - Create list of new invitees
 - Possibly ask Aldermen to introduce amendment to our ordinance to increase membership to 15. Recruit members based on affiliations, e.g., economic development
 - Could also have “unofficial” council members
 - Elm City Food Coop representative?

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 17, 2010
8:00 am – 9:45am, Meeting Room 3, City Hall