



# New Haven Food Policy Council

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## Meeting Agenda November 16, 2011

**Members Present:** Alycia Santilli, Tagan Engel, Roberta Friedman, Fred CoFrancesco, Maria Tupper, Anne Somsel, Anika Johnson, Luray, Frank Mitchell

**Affiliate members present:** Vrinda Manglik, Jacquie Lewin, Christine Dang-Vu, Joel Tolman, Emma Simson, Isabel Coderch, Laura Mattalano, Catherine Bradshaw, Kara Donovan, Sue Danberg, Sara Uhl, Anne Haynes, Joseph Beech, Steve Munno, Sung In Johnson, Christine Danguh,

**Anne Haynes** – CEO, Economic Development Corporation of New Haven  
Food Business assessment and expansion, New Haven and statewide; Board member of CitySeed

--EDC is private org; mission is business retention and attraction for city; track priorities with city; help set priorities; gives business development support; long-term planning for city; neighborhood development support; works with different sectors. Has a focus on food. Medical District and Mill River districts are areas where majority of food-based businesses that are job creators exist.

--Did preliminary analysis of Mill River and Medical; Public Meeting: November 29<sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm at Easter Seals Bldg on Hamilton St.—will report on planning. Wants to provide pipelines to continue to grow food-based businesses. Wants input from FPC on next phase; works well with some of our Food Policy Plan recommendations.

--Food has not been front and center for jobs growth in state. Effort to shift this.

--Mill River project: economic analysis of Long Wharf area included; Gateway and Register are there. Looking at start-up food innovation businesses there.

--Examples:

--Gateway: Commercial Kitchens (Incubator kitchens), for people who want to pilot a program for food production and need commercial kitchen. People would rent for low cost, share other services. Makes possible to start food business which is usually very costly.

--Food manufacturing: post-farm, post-sourcing; processing, co-packing (already cut-up vegetables that you buy at grocery)

--Looking at USDA meat facility at Long Wharf—USDA regulations is hampering ability to grow. Emphasis on “keep it local.”

--EDC will work with us on appropriate policy recommendations in our Food Policy Plan.

--Business development: significant funds being invested in “growing sectors” of CT, through CT Innovations (Dept of Economic and Community Development)—investment vehicle. Has been primarily tech-based up to now; talk about expansion now re: food manufacturing, restaurants.

--Urban ag needs attention as well.

### **District Wellness Plan Manual** - vote to assist with design and accessibility of info

- Wellness committee works on physical activity and nutrition with schools, composed of organizations, offices, UConn extension
- Created manual with policy recommendations, meant to be sent to schools, principals. Needs some graphic design to make user-friendly, simplified.
- FPC has some money in budget for printing purposes; Chair proposes we contribute \$500 to have manual designed to make manual accessible, and support the Wellness Committee; many of the policies reflect what we'll put in our Food Policy Plan.
- Tagan proposes we contribute \$500. Discussion: concern that it will actually be used.
- Vote: unanimous yes

### **Farms, Food and Jobs**

--Dept of Ag group formed; Farms Food and Jobs working group. Draws on specific information from groups around the state including the FPC to advise new Agricultural Advisory Commission being formed at state level, to push policy on locally grown food and other food policies. Jif Martin, head of Sustainability and Food Office for U Conn leads the group. Drafted plan; final approval of document will be given today, and then sent to Ag Commission.

### **Food Policy Plan**

- Committee continues to draft—how to present in way that is logical, flows, easy to read; working with graphic designer
- Not ready yet, so those who signed up to take it out to community will need to hold for now.

### **NHFPC**

- Divide responsibilities, discuss the work?
- Issues that need attention: lack of staff person (CitySeed, Inc. no longer can provide) to support the work; challenge of all-volunteer council—how to get attention paid to food issues throughout the city government
- Food Policy staff person needed: grant from CEIO (Co-create Effective Inclusive Organization); Graustein Family funding it. Purpose: to create transformation; process more than a project. FPC and CitySeed, Inc. wrote grant together: for CitySeed to become more of community-based organization (mobile market, cooking classes, growing gardens) and for FPC to do more outreach to community. If grant funded, staff person would be funded to do community outreach, become part of support system for FPC.
- Discussion:
  - What do we envision FPC doing? How would members serve? What is our role?
  - City office would be an asset. Need several paid staff. Need city's imprimatur to lend us legitimacy, open doors for us. Need presence as liaison to government, board of alders, etc. Would be helpful to write up models of how other liaisons to the city have been successful.
  - Food Policy Plan needs a "lobbyist" or liaison to move it forward.
    - could be part of any number of city offices; public/private partnership might be good (such as EDC)
    - Arrange another meeting with Mark Winne to consult?
    - Baltimore's food manager is maintaining public/private partnership—she is funded by the city, but her staff is grant-funded.

- Need support for our Youth Coalition
- Maria will send out Doodle Poll for Food Policy Members to meet in Dec.

### **USDA Grant:**

- Common Ground applying for implementation grant; FPC wrote letter of support.
- Focus on looking at food-insecure neighborhoods; how can set of resources be brought to bear on that; possible mobile farm markets; produce to healthy corner stores; nutrition education, cooking education to build “appetite” for healthy foods coincident with building access to healthy food; residents can act as “organizers” in neighborhoods. FPC was active in planning the grant. Has youth employment component.

### **Corner Grocery Store launch (CARE)**

- George St Deli, launched last Monday; worked with Common Ground students
- Common Ground’s environmental justice class worked with CARE; canvassed area around the store—went door-to-door on launch day, giving out info and coupons, and sat at info table. Good interest from neighbors. Follow-up: presentation for students at Barnard School about their experience, and how to maintain success, get students to participate. Barnard is closest school to George St. Deli.
- goal of 7 stores by June (3 to go).
- two of three stores already opened are doing well; one not making enough progress. CARE is working with it.

### **Events:**

- Urban Roots movie and pot luck at Barnard School
- Saturday: How to be a pie ninja—lead by Tagan Engel; pies made will be donated to Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen.

### **Food Day – foodaynh.org**

- Participate in a local events
- Spread the word to start more small neighborhood or family events

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

- Update on first meeting held October 12
- Moving forward – NHFPC member involvement

### **Food Policy Plan**

- Board of Aldermen meeting attended
- Draft completed this week
- Send to designer
- Community outreach November
- Discuss whether to submit this Fall or next session
- Create an internal document about how to implement FPP

### **Food Policy Council Functioning**

- Divide responsibilities
  - Take minutes/ post to website – Rob and \_\_\_\_\_
  - Website and informational materials – Frank, Anika and Moses
  - Youth coalition – Tagan and \_\_\_\_\_

- Other?

**Announcements:**

--CT Food Bank, funded for a Mobile Food Pantry on third Thursday of each month at Brennan Rogers School.

--Mike Jacobson, ED of Center for Science in the Public Interest speaking at Rudd Center on November 30, 2011.

**Next Food Policy Council Meeting  
Wednesday December 21, 2011 - 8 - 9:45am  
City Hall Meeting Room #3**