



# New Haven Food Policy Council

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## Meeting Minutes November 17, 2010

**Members Present:** Tagan Engel, Roberta Friedman, Diana Richter, Moses Boone, Maria Tupper, Monique Centrone-Stefani, Frank Mitchell, Michael Jones

**Guests:** Catherine Bradshaw, Justin Elicker, Dana Barnes, Eling Tsai, Allie Walsh, Anne Somsel, Melissa Waldron, Christine Tang

### COUNCIL PROJECTS UPDATES

#### Food Policy update – Dana, Tagan, Roberta

- In process of editing; will be simplified, includes vision statement and set of policy recommendations; draft ready for December meeting discussion

#### Kids Farms Food – curriculum meeting

- Community group whose goal is to increase children's experiences (pre-k through high school) with food systems. Tagan, Joel Tolman (Common Ground) and Steven Pynn (Sound School) met with Garth Harries, Assistant Superintendent, to discuss incorporation of food issues into curriculum; will have follow-up meeting with Will Clark, Board of Ed COO, and school curriculum director Ima Canelli. The Council will include similar recommendations in our Food Policy.

#### Composting - Eling

- Student intern is editing draft policy brief; will be ready for review for December meeting. Using Portland OR as model; will look at Toronto's plan. We will present to Mayor, Board of Aldermen, and relevant city departments.

#### School Food Purchasing/ City Bids – Tagan

- Tagan met with School Food Service Executive Director Tim Cipriano, re: increasing his ability to purchase local food; and if we should include language in our Food Policy to encourage prioritizing it when cost-effective. Tim is working well with the purchasing office and is able to be creative with his budget, so suggests we hold on writing language in the policy. He suggested language for the policy requiring good nutrition standards be met for any foods served in city government meetings and other city-sponsored functions.
- There was concern that if policy language is not written about this, Tim's current practices would not be sustained in the long term. We should address this in the food policy.

## TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

### Council member status and official Attendees – create list and discuss

- We are now at full capacity for membership—11
- In order to increase participation and diversify our reach, we will create an “Official Attendees” list of those from city departments and community organizations; they will receive minutes, be informed of our progress; and be invited to all meetings, but asked to attend and/or present when agenda includes an issue pertinent to them.
- Potential invitees include

• Board of Aldermen (Justin Elicker)
• Board of Education (Will Clark)
• CARE (Alycia Santilli)
• City Office of Economic Development (Kelly Murphy)
• City Plan Department (Karyn Gilvar)
• Common Ground (Joel Tolman)
• Community Advocates: WIC, SNAP (Monique will research for suggestions)
• Community Services Administration (Dr. Chisara Asomugha)
• Congresswoman Rosa de Lauro
• CT Environmental Headlines (Chris Zurcher)
• CT Food Bank
• Dept of Transportation (Michael Piscitelli )
• District Wellness Committee (Sue Peters or Will Clark)
• Economic Development Corporation of New Haven
• Elderly Services (Patricia Wallace)
• Emergency Food Committee
• Fair Haven Clinic (Anne Somsel)
• Farmer (Steve Munno, Massaro Farms; Hindinger Farm in Hamden)
• Groceries: Elm City Mkt; Edge of the Woods, Corner Stores, C-Town, Ferraro’s
• Hill Development Corporation
• Hill Health Center (Jennifer Brackett)
• Independent schools
• Junta, Inc.
• Mayor DeStefano
• Media: WTNH, The New Haven Independent
• New Haven Land Trust (Chris Randal)
• New Haven WIC Program (Mary Chervenak)
• Office of Sustainability (Christine Tang)
• Parks and Recreation (Diana will recommend someone)
• Preschools, daycare, Head Start (Catherine will find someone)
• Public Health Department (Dr. Mario Garcia)
• School Readiness Council (Pam Hansen)
• Students (Common Ground, Sound School, Cross & Hill House culinary programs)

• Town Green (Organization that represents businesses downtown)
• Yale New Haven Affairs (Michael Morand)
• Yale Office Sustainability (Julie Newman)
• Yale Sustainable Food Project

### **Funding and structure of council – CTFPC, grants, etc.**

- We are allocated \$3500 each year from the City; Tagan is requesting confirmation on the amount we now have and information on how to access it.
- We should submit a detailed budget
- CitySeed is our fiduciary
- Possible use of funds:
- Hire a staff person for @ 10 hours/month
- Materials, printing
- Website
- Discussion: should Council include Secretary and Treasurer? or should people take on projects as interested.
- Good to have point persons (secretary, treasurer, grants)
- Most helpful to Chair would be staff, but must be knowledgeable about Food Policy Councils. CitySeed person would be ideal—we can discuss with new director. Melissa Waldron is possibility, but funds may be insufficient.
- Alternative fundraising:
  - Ask for small amounts of money from various city departments relevant to food systems (has been done in other cities).
  - Develop letter appeal?
  - Need to market ourselves first to tell people we exist
- Tagan is meeting December 1 with Linda Drake from CT Food Policy Council and Jif Martin U Conn Dept of Ag Extension to discuss funding and structure as well as connecting our local work with the state FPC work.
  - Tagan will write draft funding proposal to City

### **Hunger Grant– Diana**

- Federal grant; geared toward hunger relief strategy for community
- FPC is ideal candidate; 2011 grant proposal due in September; do in partnership with a city department or community organization as fiduciary (e.g., Land Trust, Aldermen, Food Bank)
- Need specific project, mission, budget
- Allows for staff salary
- Basics: long-term grant, apply next September; two-phase grant (planning/implementation)
- Discussion:
  - Possibilities: Urban agriculture, farms, food mapping, distribution networks to get fresh food to corner stores, mobile markets, food reclamation (like City Harvest in New York); food storage; emergency food supplies.
  - Food mapping: understand the system, establish basic components of system. Monique Centrone Stefani is studying food security models, will present to Council on access, availability, utilization, sustainability, and identifying gaps.

- Suggested we apply only for implementation phase
- Diana will obtain other organizations' applications to use as models
- Should discuss with Rosa DeLauro's office
- Members should read pages 1-8 of grant, be prepared for in-depth discussion in December meeting.

### **Healthy meals legislation –Yale Law Clinic letter - Justin**

- Would mandate that kids' meals in fast food restaurants meet healthy nutrition standards if chain wants to include toys/other incentives to give away with meal
- Santa Clara and San Francisco have both passed similar ordinances.
- Justin met with Yale Law Clinic which agreed to work on legal aspect of an ordinance.
- Council agreed to be signatory on letter of engagement with Yale Law Clinic; letter needs slight revision; Council voted to give Chair authority to approve final language of letter.
- Justin asked the Council to talk about the ordinance in the community.

### **Food Systems Map – Frank**

- Use for Hunger grant
- Subcommittee will meet (Monique, Frank, Diana), present at next meeting

### **City Plan – 100-year revision**

- How to include food policy issues in revision
- Council will ask for meeting w. City Plan Office: Michael, Tagan, Moses
- “Right to Farm” movement—involves zoning issues
- Is there an emergency plan for food for city? Diana will investigate

### **Public meetings – food policy? Other issues. How and when?**

- To get feedback about food in NH
- Educational tool; advertise our efforts, get input from community
- Piggyback with other organizations

### **Year-end report:**

- Council must submit; Tagan will find out timeline

### **Guest: Christine Tang: Office of Sustainability**

- Office created earlier this year; funded for 2 years through ARRA
- City-wide strategy for sustainability, including food

- Wants to evolve sustainability plan with targets, hold city accountable; include standards for local foods

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Minutes approval by email and posted to website**
  - Council needs to respond to emails for approval and approve!
  - Suggestion to set them up as Google docs, so can simultaneously edit
- **Urban Farm Conversation**
  - Fair Haven Clinic: has independent garden coordinated with Diabetes Prevention Program; 20 people met to brainstorm creating urban farm; potential land in Edgerton Park—greenhouses; how to tie into Hunger Grant—grow food or seedlings there, get to lower-income neighborhoods
- **Health Matters – next meeting Nov. 30th, and Obesity Conference in January**
  - Roberta attends for Council
  - Conference will include Obesity panel; safety/violence panel

### **Ideas for next meeting:**

Arts and Ideas—we should get on their agenda now: Diana will call.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 15, 2010**  
**8:00 am – 9:45am, Meeting Room 3, City Hall**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Roberta Friedman