



New Haven Food Policy Council

Meeting Minutes February 15, 2012

Members present: Monique Centrone, Roberta Friedman, Diana Richter, Tagan Engel, Maria Tupper, Fred Cofrancesco, Anika Johnson, Alderman Frank Douglas

Affiliates present: Emma Simson, Grant Damon, Laura Mattaliano, Vrinda Manglik, Catherine Bradshaw, Christine Dang Vu, Patrick Kelley, Dave Fairman, Robert Burns, Billy Bromage, Isabel Coderch, Alyssa Cheung, Cathy Jones, Nicole Berube

Welcome - Meeting facilitator – Maria Tupper

CEIO Grant Update - Funding for NHFPC, Food Systems Coordinator and Community Outreach

- We were awarded \$100,000 for two years to
 - do community outreach on food issues
 - involve community in food issues and solutions
 - support the Food Policy Council
 - hold a conference and community “conversations”
 - create stipends for Food Justice Centers in neighborhoods
- Other possible projects: Capacity building, education and training; leadership and diversity training; mission effectiveness

Food Action Plan – Update

- Final draft of preliminary plan will be ready in several weeks
- With CEIO grant (see above) we can now take plan to the community
- Yale Law Clinic has worked with us to develop legal language where needed

Genetically Modified Food (GMF) Labeling ordinance

- Is not part of our food action plan, but we might reconsider it
- Bob Burns, organic farmer, member of NOFA, presented on the ordinance
 - Resolution is now a bill in the state legislature
 - Science is finding flaws in GMFs; GMFs are banned in 5 California counties; Monsanto has lobbied against bans
 - 2,500 small farmers who were also seed savers, have lost farms because of Monsanto
 - In CT: Representative Richard Roy has been involved
 - Burns is asking for our support for resolution: Council needs to figure out if this is lobbying
 - nofa@ctnofa.org has more information
- RESOLUTION FY12-001 RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS
 - WHEREAS, food is a fundamental prerequisite to human life; and
 - WHEREAS, the inalienable right to choose the foods we consume is confounded by the absence of labels identifying Genetically Modified Foods; and
 - WHEREAS, Ledge Light Health District places the highest value on promoting informed, educated and knowledgeable consumers;

- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ledge Light Health District Board of Directors Supports efforts to require that all food products shall be labeled to reflect that the food has been altered, grown or processed as a “Genetically Modified Food.”

Big Food Exhibit- Peabody Museum - Report on Opening date Saturday Feb 11.

- Successful opening; exhibit will be up through November
- NHFPC had table for opening day; youth member participated
- CARE and Rudd Center curated the exhibit

Annual Report Update

- Anika Johnson and Maria Tupper have been compiling minutes from 2009-2011 into annual reports which will be posted on line

Website and Facebook update - Anika Johnson and Diana Richter

- Our website page is almost ready: www.nhfpc.org
- Anika: Facebook page is pending; looked at other cities;
 - Do we allow postings from the public? Needs to be monitored.
- Proposal: Council members and affiliates can post; others would need permission
- Newhavenfoodpolicycouncil@gmail.com: to post on Facebook

New Haven Farms -Community Meeting Announcement

- March 8th, 2012, 5:30-6:30 at Fair Haven Public Library community meeting to get support for farm at Quinnipiac River Park

New Haven Gardening Organization Info Session Report

- Organized by Daniel McPhee from Yale Sustainable Food Project
- Was networking opportunity for community organizations which do gardening, and Yale students

Governors Council for Agricultural Development update

- Members are mostly producers/farmers and distributors
- Designated working groups (e.g. urban farming, distribution, access, marketing)
- Opportunity for Council to participate; Governor Malloy has interest in agriculture
- NHFPC drafted white paper on Farms, Food, Jobs in CT; presented it to Governor’s Council
- Council needs more “food system” thinkers, NHFPC would help with that

Urban Agriculture Summit - report from 2/13/2012 meeting

- Group interested in investment in communities
- Had representation from across the state: growers, service providers, food policy councils
- Agreement that we need to have clearinghouse for statewide information
- Urban Ag Institute was proposed to promote data collection, education
- We’ll have a working group for New Haven; feed information to state level

Food Summit – report and discuss summit meeting ideas (next meeting Wed Feb 22, 8:30 am)

- Tentative date in early October (before Food Day), to be held at Peabody, in association with Big Food exhibit
- Objectives: highlight elements of Food Action Plan; engage the community; networking; get community leaders interested in food systems work
- Possible two-day conference: to get buy-in from city officials to implement Food Action Plan; and to get community involved

New NHFPC member search updates

- Alderperson Frank Douglass, Ward 2 (Dwight, Edgewood, Whalley area) has joined the Council
- Search is on for open seat; we need a process for selection
 - Ask candidates to attend next meeting; need commitment to participate in committee or other work

Food mapping project - Monique Centrone

- “Characterization of the New Haven Food System”; create list of existing resources; science is young; using Health Impact Assessment as a model; attempt to understand what resources exist locally so we can understand best policies to pursue; use as educational tool for New Haven?; use to help city understand how to participate in the food system
- Majority of data collection done; analyses being done now
- Current focus: obesity and how the system contributes to the problem; FPC needs to consider how to extend beyond obesity issue
- Goal: finish within next few months; Monique needs assistance (interns)

NHFPC Tasks (continued from last month and to be continued)

- Annual report, system for getting meeting minutes up on web, website, Brochure, NHFPC email addresses etc. (maybe find a tech person to hire to work on this.)
- Affiliate members

Announcements:

- Bioregional group (and others) sponsoring showing of Farmageddon movie; April 24th, 2012

Next Food Policy Council Meeting
Wednesday February 15, 2012 - 8am - 9:45am
City Hall Meeting Room #3
Facilitator: Anika Johnson

Minutes respectfully submitted by Roberta Friedman