



New Haven Food Policy Council

Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2011

Members present: Tagan Engel, Roberta Friedman, Maria Tupper, Monique Centrone, Alderman Mike Jones

Affiliates and guests present: Mario Garcia, Alderman Justin Elicker, Peter Bonoff, Abby Klein, Anna Sfakianaki, Nicole Berube, Joel Tolman, Alycia Santilli, Steve Munno, Catherine Bradshaw, Anne Somsel, Luray Shepard, Melissa Waldron

Updates and Announcements

- Funding from the city – we finally got it!
 - CitySeed is our fiduciary; will meet to arrange logistics
 - We submitted budget to city
- Abby Klein – potential staff for council
 - has experience with LA Food Policy Council
 - New Haven native
 - Researched why LA failed to form FPC first time around
 - Cook, caterer
 - Council voted to hire her as staff person
- Common ground students – update from Joel Tolman, and a vote on creation of youth coalition
 - Students who attended last FPC meeting were excited about attending; would like to continue in a coalition (including high school and college students)
 - One student will become voting Council member
 - Council and guests were enthusiastic about the coalition
 - Council voted to create coalition
 - Melissa met a youth coalition from Middletown/Wesleyan; going to New Orleans to work with Ninth Ward group of kids; coalition wants to work with us to coordinate youth here to work

Council Projects

- Healthy Meals Ordinance – update Justin Elicker and Law Clinic Student
 - Encourage fast food restaurants to serve healthy default meals to kids: require fast food to offer healthy sides first; would have to request fries/soda; drafting ordinance is complicated; Yale Law students researching now re: what restaurants to include etc; Corporate Accountability International will help coordinate grassroots work; need commitment of time and energy from council and guests; timeline uncertain—Yale may be done with draft ordinance in a month

- Would this be part of the health code? How will it be enforced?
 - Would need to be part of city charter’s health section or of commerce section; once Yale has draft ordinance, will work with Mario Garcia in health dept to determine appropriate implementation and enforcement
 - Justin asked that council members start to gather endorsements of the idea from organizations in New Haven
 - Opposition arguments: industry will lobby against, “nanny state” regulation that deprives people of right to choose
 - Meeting with Eric Mar– Rob
 - NAACP – locally and nationally – Tagan
 - Met with Maurice Williams, part of CARE and NAACP; NAACP has wellness or health committee, which runs health fair each year; we want to involve him with Council and with healthy meals ordinance;
 - How to get buy-in on national level with NAACP
 - Maurice is involved on local and national level;
 - Tagan sent invitation to head of health committee (who is also involved on national level)
 - NAACP gets Coke and MacDonal’d’s money
 - It would be useful to get NAACP to endorse healthy meals ordinance
- Food System Mapping –Update and progress – Monique
 - Plan to map out processes involved in production, distribution and consumption of food in NH; Monique is researching, created list of data needed for the map;
 - Meeting with Dr. Mario Garcia, DPH
 - Make connection between food systems, hunger/food insecurity and obesity on map, if possible
 - Wants interns
 - Funding options
 - For research, production, interns
 - Hunger Relief Grant?
 - Peabody Exhibit on evolution of obesity, 2012: Rudd and CARE are working with this; map could be part of this
- Food Policy Plan – committee revisions and plan
 - Community conversations/listening sessions
 - We were using food security system; looked at NYC plan which organizes in food system model instead, which we will adopt; gaps were identified; need to flesh it out; need to decide if plan will be a set of suggestions for the city and its departments to implement or plan for entire city, including government departments
 - Community Listening Sessions
 - Meet with different parts of community re: access to healthy food (e.g., corner store owners and zoning; restaurant owners; hospital in procurement of healthy food)
 - Do we refine the plan, present to City, and then do listening sessions, supported by the City?

- Suggestion: We develop the plan as far as possible, then introduce it to City and get help from individual departments to help refine it and collect data
- Suggestion: use it as an “advocacy tool”
- Community Mediation, partnerships with existing groups (DPH, CARE, ECM)
- How does this coincide with grant opportunities?
 - Subcommittee will meet to brainstorm which grants would work: Joel, Monique, Anna, Catherine, Diana, Nicole, Tagan, Melissa

Additional Topics

- Draft letter for Affiliate Members
 - Affiliates are those who are important to have on council, but will not be voting members
 - Send out email, follow up with phone call
 - Affiliate membership will allow us to include NH employees who do not live here, but work on aspects of food system;
- Meeting with Linda Drake, chair of CT Food Policy Council (Tagan)
 - CT FPC is surveying localities which have FPCs or are considering them
 - Holding May conference with 1-3 reps of each local council
- Council Budget – how do we want to manage the money?
- Fund raising and web development
 - Peter Bonoff will work with Tagan
- Native American representation on council; Tagan emailed Jif Martin and Linda Drake, has list of names to contact; Maria will make calls; Historical Society may have contacts

Announcements and guest intros/priorities

- Thursday March 17th conferences
 - Urban Agriculture round table; at the Bourse: Nicole Berube will represent the council
 - Visioning a Healthier New Haven
- FPC Conference in Oregon; financial aid available; apply by March 25th
- Luray Shepard: CT Food Bank, programs director; working on making pantries “client’s choice”—client gets to choose foods, rather than receiving a bag of pre-selected food; have mobile pantry
- Anna Sfakianaki: high-risk obstetrician at Yale hospital, in Yale Public Health School, professor at medical school
 - Wants to address obesity/nutrition issue in poor young mother population
 - Obesity affects pregnancy; but weight loss not advocated; need to get women to ideal weight before pregnancy; working with Women’s Center at hospital—population of underinsured women
 - WIC doesn’t have enough time/money to educate mothers
 - Is convening focus groups of the Women Center clients re: food, access, nutrition

- Yale Hospital food is poor quality; New Milford Hospital has worked to upgrade theirs (with John Turrine); this issue will be included in Food Policy Plan
- Steve Munno: Masaro Community Farm
 - Mission: Preserve land, donate food, keep working farm
 - Donated produce to New Haven last year
 - Next year: explore more ways to be involved with NH groups to get fresh produce to them; get them to come to farm
 - Melissa is community outreach coordinator
- Alycia Santili, CARE
 - Attending New England Food Summit in Portsmouth NH, next week; discuss feasibility of regional food system
 - Five stores recruited in three neighborhoods in New Haven developed for Healthy Corner Store initiative; one or two stores will be launched in April; would like Council support to get word out about initiative
- April 15th: Stop and Shop opening on Whalley;
- End of August: Elm City Market will open
- Joel Tolman: Common Ground
 - Wants to donate more food to West Rock neighborhood (West Hills area especially), need advice on how best to do that; finalist for an urban food grant—will help set up mobile and on-site markets, expand farm, set up cooking classes
- Kids, Food, Farm Collaborative update
 - Decided to focus on goal of creating gardens in every school; writing plan of action
- New Haven Farms update
 - Possible land from Parks Department near brewery on Quinnipiac River
 - May partner with Edgerton Park
 - Community meeting coming up

Next Food Policy Council Meeting
Wednesday April 20th 8 - 9:45am