

New Haven Food Policy Council Meeting
April 21, 2010
8AM

In attendance:

Roberta Friedman
Maria Tupper
Frank Mitchell
Phaedra Ebron
Erin Wirpsa Eisenberg
Michael Jones

1. Council Members
 - a. Get in touch with Monique
 - b. Do we need to talk again about membership?
 - c. What does membership involve?
 - i. Coming to monthly meetings
 - ii. Subcommittee work as needed
 - iii. Need to find the right issue, like school food before
2. Shaw's Update (Frank)
 - a. Rumor has it that there is a "regionally familiar and respected" market that is in talks with the Dwight Development Corporation.
 - i. Community hearing/workshop discussion tonight at City Hall
 - b. 360 State Street is working on a grocery concept.
3. Christine Eppstein Tang Meeting (Roberta and Erin)
 - a. Her top three focus areas are: energy efficiency, air quality and recycling
 - b. She is hoping to put sustainable food into her strategic plan
 - c. We are hoping she can come to the May meeting
 - d. Insert composting into her recycling agenda
 - e. Can we put sustainable food into her agenda because it limits trucks from coming into the city, thus increasing air quality?
4. Food Policy Conference (Roberta and Erin)
 - a. Friday session
 - i. Tensions between public health and anti-hunger groups
 - ii. Next steps still undefined
 - b. Saturday conference
 - i. Keynote: Olivier Descooter, UN Special Rappatoire for the Right to Food
 - ii. White paper to be prepared by Law School students
 - iii. Political problems preventing major policy changes
 - iv. Share notes from Fred Kirschmann at conference

5. Food Carts (Michael)

- a. New York is the only city with this program
 - i. City of New York and the Illumination Fund provided start-up funding, \$1.5M for 1,000 carts
 - ii. Microloans provided through local nonprofit
 - iii. All-weather wireless terminals provided for EBT/SNAP
 - iv. Ground rules:
 1. Must sell fresh fruits and vegetables
 2. Must set up shop in food deserts
 - v. \$3,500—\$5,000 start-up costs
 - vi. City provides technical assistance through private firm
 - vii. More information on NYC Department of Public Health
- b. Brainstorms
 - i. Financials
 - ii. What policy recommendations should we be making in order to encourage these businesses?
 - iii. Can we tie in to the community gardens?
 - iv. Include money for training and technical assistance
 - v. Who would be in opposition? We should talk with them.
 - vi. What have the green carts done to minimize issues?
 - vii. We need someone to go speak with someone in NYC working on the carts.
 - viii. What are the green carts ongoing problems?
 - ix. Health and safety information
 - x. Zoning issues
 - xi. Have we already tried this? Do we have any prior research?
- c. Next steps
 - i. Compile a list of questions and schedule a conference call with the appropriate person in NYC (Michael will determine best person).
 - ii. Divide questions by category.

6. Hazelnut Tree Project (Maria)

- a. Original idea: hazelnuts as a source of protein.
- b. Sold 300 bushes and trees that will be planted around New Haven.
- c. Permaculture video—complete system

7. Announcements

- a. April-June Suppers at CT Food Bank—more information available from Phaedra, includes an educational component
- b. Skill Shares from the Bioregional Group—how to build a compost heap, raised bed, fermentation, etc.—more information from Maria
- c. Open space meeting on health and well-being at Common Ground—idea to address need in community
- d. May 1—first regular season farmers' market in Wooster Square