

Seattle – King County Acting Food Policy Council

Meeting Notes, March 16, 2007

1. Introductions, in attendance: Fe Arreola, Steve Bauck, Branden Born, Mary Embleton, Leah Herz, Jen Lamson, Erin MacDougall, Pablo Monsivias, Tammy Morales, Laura Raymond
Guests: Kelly Horton, Karen Kinney, Claire Dyckman, Jason Lindahl, Nancy Hutto
Staff: Jen Naas

2. Updates and Announcement
 - Update about working with the county by Erin
 - Kelly is part of a team putting together a two pager about the farm bill for the county executive
 - The executive already signed the “seeking balance” document
 - Meetings around the state are going well, wrote a letter for farmers to hand out which states their issues
 - Issue is that there are not a lot of farmers in the meetings
 - Kelly should connect with Good Food Strategies for more farmers to be involved
 - Jen Lamson will send out information on the bills to the group (two specific bills proposed by different senators/representatives)
 - CHC Invited for proposal for an agricultural processing and distribution facility to the Carolyn Foundation
 - CHC also invited for another grant to enhance farmers market vouchers to low-income school kids
 - Leah in WA DC for a conference – from a social justice advocacy arm for Jewish movement, there will be some food policy sessions she will attend
 - Luce group having focus groups in April aided by Tammy, will share questions with council
 - Kelly and Steve are doing state-wide focus groups with food banks

3. Membership
 - For information, Chantal resigned. She did not have enough time for AFPC
 - Question now about filling the seat or move forward with 14 people. If we leave with 14, there are issues with voting and quorum,
 - Previously filled seats by the “official” list of votes taken from last year’s list serve-based elections and are near exhausting the list, so go on to another vote? The official year is running out.
 - Second question is what does the AFPC do in May? Dissolve, become an FPC or vote continuance for a certain (short) amount of time
 - Another question is if the AFPC should fill vacant council seats on niche basis/ representing a sector?
 - Should really start out with the question of “do we want to fill this position” and then how?
 - Comment that limiting the “A” (time wise) makes sense, but must have a few more months to continue on with work
 - Comment that it is generally standard to have a certain number of seats that are appointed, that maybe it should be a bigger issue and reserve two or three seats as appointed seats and change the structure of the AFPC
 - There is also an option to appoint people for the remainder of the term

- Suggested having a “second term” from May till December?
 - Continuation might be a different decision than bringing on more people
 - Comment that the body should remain together until the AFPC become official
 - Comment that this is taking away the democratic process?
 - Suggested that the process be amended to allow for an open call and let the members vote on this
 - Perhaps the original process was not as democratic?
 - **Motion that this council extend the existence of the body through August (3 months) – Vote was unanimous**
 - **Motion to amend bylaws to say: “vacant seats on the council may be filled by appointment of the council for the remainder of the term” was approved**
 - **Motion to appoint Kelly Horton – Approved**
 - Kelly accepted and will join Resource Development Committee
4. Discussion of policy framework
- This will go to county executive as the AFPC proposal - eventually
 - Goals have objectives and strategies for examples, but are not set in stone
 - Right now – Karen Wolf has a draft proposal, Cathy Creahan is also involved
 - Does it make sense to send the document to county and city staff right now? Yes, this appears to have addressed some questions and comments (added by Karen Kinney)
 - Send out as a “draft” be sure that all parties know that we are still working together
 - City IDT is creating something similar without executive directive given to county
 - City is using this as a way to promote ideas, and use joint meeting to get feedback
 - Logistics are question – who should get what documents, when, etc.
 - Keep in mind that the county is far behind the city
 - Comment that under Economic Vitality – as a goal, promoting unique identity of regional food culture and heritage (something like Portland’s about food tourism)
 - Concern that buy local campaigns is not appropriate, instead use a LCA – enhance “buy sustainable”
 - Thought that we need language drafted and sent in reference to local versus sustainable.
 - Food miles might be the best way to discuss this, as public cannot understand this idea
 - Comment that KC is invested in local purchase (Puget Sound Fresh) is very interested
 - Comment that this conversation is the way AFPC time should be spent
5. Committee roles and responsibilities
- CR Feels that number one (on list attached) is the real crux of their work (included comments by Laura N.), perhaps creating messages but not strategy documents
 - CR committee also has generic PowerPoint (14-15 slides) by Pablo. He will send out soon for comment
6. Ag Commission Presentation
- Gave handout to help Hmong farmers – donate dahlia bulbs

- Nancy Hutto (honey farm in North Bend) gave presentation since 1992, and as partner in 1985
- She first got involved with bond issue to preserve farmland
- Slide show was intended for general public, some ideas that we know that public may not

The following notes are sporadic

- Ag commission is full of diverse producers
- Informs council on policy as it affects agriculture and producers.
- 1st in state in production per acre, 4th in state for [something]
- Commission created in 1995
- Assist with farmers markets (some seed money)
- CSAs another vehicle for farm connections
- This year, one priority is to assist on-farm stands (see attached goals for 2007), it is a goal – accomplished through publicize through Puget Sound Fresh, parking regulations, health department regulations are barriers to on-farm stands
- Dairies are decreasing and converted to other types of farms
- meat – lack of slaughter facilities
- TDR for ag land – short discussion on TDR and PDR and how that works
- Role of commission to mediate between farmers and govt
- Farm land not being developed, but also not being farmed
- Conversion of ag land to farm estates
- Also work with fish friendly farming
- Ag commission meetings are open to the public: 2nd Thursday in Issaquah
- APDs on one slide in red – research presented by Jason
 - Research (based on drive-by) to look at land uses
 - Also looked at house sizes
 - Horses might be considered ag
- Discussion of Farm Bill work on the Ag commission
- Issue with water rights
- Question about the productivity of land, and the potential of land to feed the state/region
- Largest barriers to farming – water rights, land prices.
- Thinking about solutions: long term leases, and different models to get people to farm
- TDR – can this be improved? Hasn't been too successful, but is cheaper to run than purchase
- This is a good beginning first step to share ideas and thoughts, use the Ag commission as they have expertise in producing and how policies might affect them
- Question of regionalism and the perception of King County
- Issues might lie in east side cities, they are the ones encroaching on the ag lands