

Acting Food Policy Council

Meeting Notes 3.21.08

Present:

Mary Embelton, Laura Niemi, Sylvia Kantor, Tammy Morales, Laura Raymond, Erin MacDougall, Pablo Monsivais, Fe Arreola, Steve Bauck, Jen Lamson, Kelly Horton, Rebecca Sayre

Absent: Branden Born, Linda Nageotte

Guests: Liz Ficus, Tim Bernthal, Tricia Sexton, Jason Brown, Siri Ericksen-Brown, Melissa Campbell, Andrew Bjorn, Jennifer Langston, Pete Soucy

Updates

Local Farms, Healthy Kids

Local Farms Healthy Kids has passed through the Legislature! [*The Bill was signed into law on March.27th.*]

Highlights

\$1.5 million is allocated to Local Farms, Healthy Kids bill. Funds will be used to procure two and half full-time staff for the Farm to School Program at WSDA, change procurement rules for schools to make it easier to purchase Washington grown foods, funding for WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Programs, a pilot for EBT/debit/credit card use at Farmer's Markets, a Farm to Food Banks pilot program, a state level Fresh Fruits and Vegetables program for low income schools modeled after the federal program. The only element of the initial proposal that was dropped is a feasibility study for an added-value processing facility. A significant win is procurement policy change. And the only caveat is that we are waiting to see if the bill aligns with 2008 changes in federal Farm Bill in regard to procuring food and geographic preferencing.

Action: There was a debrief and celebration planning meeting at the WEC, 1402 Third Ave, Suite 1400, Wednesday March 26th from 1 pm to 3 pm.

Pablo- The Fresh Fruits and Vegetables program specializes in WA grown parallel to but separate from federal dollars.

Erin is happy to talk with anyone off-line about an additional amendment re: school gardens and other amendments.

Kellogg Food and Society Conference - Good Food Village Square

Tammy: The Food and Society Conference will be April 29 to May 1, in Chandler, AZ. A special session called the Good Food Village Square is being organized by Winrock International. Goal: To determine "what don't we know yet to create a sustainable food system based on "good food" and what can be collaborated on?" What comes out of this session will be posted for the broader conference.

The AFPC was asked to participate as one of 20 projects. We were recommended by Andy Fisher of the Community Food Security Coalition. On Wednesday, April 30th there will be what is called “open space work.” This is an attempt at creating a space for a non-traditional forum to collaborate vs. share. Projects include: a program from NY that focuses on agri-venture among other programs, a Farm to School component, and more. The invitation is for minimum of 2, up to 3 AFPC members. Expenses are paid for the conference, but travel must be paid by participants. ***Branden and Tammy have expressed interest. Jen is interested too.***

Tammy: There is required prep work to participate in the initial Monday night session. We will need to walk through a “visioning process” to assess what we do not know.

Action: Perhaps half of next AFPC meeting should focus on this prep. What is our vision? What don't we know yet?

Laura R: Clarification. This is not part of the Food and Fitness Initiative?

Sylvia: Correct

Events

Wayne Roberts

Laura R.: The Wayne Roberts event took place last month in conjunction with the Dept. of Neighborhoods and other community partners. The panel discussion that took place included Wayne Roberts of the Toronto FPC, Steve Cohen of Portland/Multnomah FPC, Herb Barbolet, from Vancouver, BC, and Branden Born.

Wayne's presentation: He shared images of food access projects and community engagement currently happening in Toronto. This was a well attended event (approx 200 people).

Next day: The panelists met with City staff—consisting of many who worked on the neighborhood planning process— This was a very energizing meeting with about 25 people in attendance. The panelists presented the same issues as the previous evening from a local government perspective and why food policy matters and what is the problem? This line of questioning really spurred the conversation forward and led to a discussion of emergency preparedness and peak oil production. Cities must be ready to respond.

Wayne Roberts says that in Toronto, *1 in 7 dollars in the city's budget is related to food.* That is a lot of money that is not tracked and managed.

Erin: The facilitator prompted all members in room to put ideas forward. It was the first time Erin had heard this input from city staff and really appreciated learning more about their perspective.

Liz: There were also many new people in room. “I don't know much about food. But, here is my question,” was heard often. This was the most cohesive meeting I have attended in a long time.

Laura: Trying to incorporate this energy and the suggestions into the work of the Inter-Departmental Team. There is a lot of excitement and interest at this time. Challenge: How do we convey excitement and the ideas generated in a compelling way to the Mayor's senior staff?

Action: Laura will share notes from the meeting.

Laura: Mayor tends to prefer short-term action over big vision.

Jen: Mayor and Council still do not get that this is a critical issue. Not just something "nice." That is a nut we need to crack. We need to find the vehicle and messaging that hits home.

Mary: We need to put this right in their lap. Perhaps focus on emergency preparedness? We need to show the broad spectrum of implications. They took an Oath of Office, this is a comprehensive issue that impacts many constituents.

Mark Winne

Erin- He came here a year and a half ago. This time he is promoting his recently released book; *Closing the Food Gap* and is leading a statewide food policy council training. If the timing works, he may be able to attend the May AFPC meeting.

Wednesday May 14th - 7:00 pm he will be at 3rd Place Books

Thursday, May 15th – Washington State Dept of Health is hosting him to lead a training for counties that are interested in forming a food policy council.

Friday May 16th: Northwest Harvest event on Mercer Island.

Action: Tricia has offered to drive Mark to Mercer Island event

King Corn

Erin: There will be a panel discussion **Saturday the 22nd** after the movie, inc. Erin MacDougall, Mark McIntyre and Linda Neunzig of Snohomish County. Movie showing at 4 pm NW Film Forum Capitol Hill on 12th Ave E.

Kelly: There will also be a showing on **April 12 7:00 p.m.** at the Queen Anne Manor, 100 Crockett St., Seattle WA – also followed by a discussion.

Two Angry Moms

Sylvia: A screening of Two Angry Moms will be hosted by Whole Foods Market in Redmond at Bastyr May 1st-ish. WSU KCE is organizing a panel discussion on farm to school following the movie.

King County Council Town Hall meeting:

Tammy: Exchanged calls with County staff for the Council as a whole. The issues must be raised by Council members. The whole year is not yet scheduled out. It is possible that we will be able to coordinate with Council Chair Julia Patterson.

Steve: **Northwest Harvest has released a [new report](#) on food bank customers** throughout the state. What would it be like to not use food banks? What if they were not available? Report also available on Northwest Harvest website.

http://www.northwestharvest.org/images/Focus_Groups_2007_Final_Report.pdf

Surprising findings: sophistication of awareness that quality of food is impacting health. --Fat, sugar, salt affecting people's health. People demonstrated a broad spectrum of food knowledge. They understood the link between nutrition and obesity.

Tammy: There is also the issue of cultural appropriateness. For example: Canned beans get donated for the Hispanic population, but what needs to be better understood is that, they prefer to cook their own.

Steve: Northwest Harvest plans to do focus groups and to generate this report annually. We are looking at areas where council(s) and decision makers might pay attention.

Pablo: Attended the local food economy meeting in Feb. to discuss the **Local Food Economy report** conducted by Vikki Sontag and Sustainable Seattle. He would like to dive in deeper to find out how they got their results, the basis of them. Tammy and Erin also attended

The premise is that local food economy businesses circulate into local economy more sharply than non-local economy dollars. Pablo was unclear how this data was derived. It would be interesting to compare to Toronto's claim that \$1 in \$7 expended in city resources is related to food.

Tammy: If a chef sources locally, then dollars spent are they considered local? They have developed a "local" matrix. I found it really interesting how many chefs are trying to go local.

Pablo: How possible is to put results into other terms?

Tricia: It would be good if we could apply to how Seattle's dollars are spent.

Anna Lappe

Sylvia: We are very excited that Conlin announced the Local Food Action Initiative at the Seattle Tilth 30th Anniversary event with Anna Lappé!

Laura N.: Anna Lappé was here to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Seattle Tilth. Her focus was on the large business impacts of food, on the environment, and climate change.

Conlin provided a great segue, "Seattle is taking steps. In fact I am offering a Resolution."

Conlin's Local Food Action Initiative Meeting on March 19th:

Tammy: Impressed with Conlin's willingness to hear ideas and to distribute materials.

Sylvia: The tone was excited, positive. Conlin and staff will include all appropriate suggestions and welcomes dialogue. Approximately 20 people represented.

Erin: The meeting participants included individuals and groups who had contacted Conlin's office on food issues. Participants included both citizens and non-profit representatives.

Phyllis stressed, “I want to consider the level of expectation— we want to be clear that the resolution is a framework, but consideration of specific issues will flow from this structure.”

Sylvia: An ordinance is needed to create an FPC. That will be the next steps. The work has just begun. FPC may be the entity that tackles specifics.

Upcoming Meetings on the LFA Initiative

Laura N.: How can we help advance the resolution?

Action:

- 1. Send emails to members of City Council and Mayor supporting the: Local Food Action Initiative.**

City Council: firstname.lastname@seattle.gov

Mayor Nickels: http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/citizen_response.htm

- 2. Attend one of the following meetings:**

April 11th: Discussion with Francis Moore-Lappe:

12:00pm to 1:30pm (brown bag), Council Chambers and 5pm to 7pm, Bertha Knight Landes Room. These events are free.

City Hall, 600 Fourth Ave, Seattle

April 16th: Public Hearing on LFA Initiative (**Priority**)

City Council Chambers, 600 Fourth Ave, Seattle, 5:30 pm.

Talking Points link to [flyer](#) created by Phyllis Shulman

<http://king.wsu.edu/foodandfarms/foodpolicycouncil.htm>

- The initiative increases support of local and regional agriculture and reduces the climate impacts of our food system.
- Improves the security of our local food supply in the event of a major disaster
- Improves public health by increasing access to healthy, culturally appropriate food, especially for low-income households.

Tasks/Considerations

Erin: Is there a no cost translation option?

Tricia: County library distribution

Sylvia: This is our chance. This is what we have been waiting for. Now is the time to step up make ourselves heard.

Fe: I have contacts with those who work on Social Service issues.

Rebecca: I will distribute flyers, track activists, help to generate some media.

Erin: WEC is willing to assist with outreach.

King County, Board of Health (BoH) meeting:

Erin: Recently, Executive Sims’ launched the county’s Social and Health Equity Initiative. Also, the King County Board of Health had their initial discussion about the Initiative this week. The meeting was well attended by BoH members and there was significant discussion about the need

to address equity soon and in a meaningful way. Following this presentation, Seattle City Councilmember Richard Conlin presented his Local Food Action Initiative to the Board of Health members. This was the initial presentation. The County is going to be looking at health through a social justice lens. The Conlin resolution is well-timed. Erin was pleased at the high-level of interest and support. King County Councilwoman Julia Patterson has indicated that she will be introducing parallel legislation—County ordinance. This was followed by a wonderful discussion about food systems after the presentation among the Board of Health members.

Action: Erin will check on timeline of the video of the Board of Health meeting being available online.

Policy

Food Security Paper Policy Discussion

Laura N.: I found the paper to be very readable.

Andrew: Please continue to provide input, but I am striving to get this paper done and am willing to do follow-up.

Sylvia: On pg 8, I want to explore the concept of food deserts in the middle and upper class areas. These areas lack public transit but are not food insecure — this implies that people rely on driving to stores and this has implications for climate change and emergency preparedness. In this instance we should highlight the dependence on cars.

Jen: Does the order of the bullet point suggestions imply an order of priority?

Andrew: Conclusions can be massaged. There is no order of priority.

Jen: Thoughts on most significant findings?

Sylvia: It is interesting that some high-risk households have access to stores. This must mean that access is a different issue there, meaning poverty, cultural appropriateness, or reliance on food banks.

Pablo: We must consider economic affordability. What happens when you enter store? Affordability? Culturally Appropriate?

Sylvia: Policy possibilities? Maybe we can suggest they offer incentives to developers to build stores?

Tricia: As written, the language in the Local Food Action Initiative is negative regarding this issue. It talks of the “banning of certain stores” vs. incentivizing.

Laura R.: Maybe we are not there yet. Should we consider an interim policy step, such as a review of zoning laws? We do not have the expertise at this time.

Laura R.: Recent Inter-Departmental Team idea—Food density concept. How would that be measured? What types of food are available? What about diversity of offerings? Are there gardens in the vicinity? Other options?

Sylvia: I would like to see a mapping and assessment of farmers markets, food banks, convenience stores as part of the next steps in this research.

Liz: We should also consider the vulnerability of farmer's markets. How secure are they in their current location.

Laura N. It would also be good to map transportation possibilities. Are there bus route options and alternatives?

Tammy: Metro has to-date not been receptive to tailoring routes to meet food access needs. This report will provide us with a new avenue to approach Metro.

Andrew- Brian Lee (co-author) was in charge of the transportation side of paper and he is not here now. I did not want to be overly specific as this paper is intended to provide a broad overview. The issue is not so much Seattle and North King County. South of Seattle is a focal point. There is a concentration of lack of access and vulnerable populations. Its one thing to get to a Safeway or QFC in Seattle, but another story outside of the city limits.

In the outlying communities, buses are on arterials, grocery store placement is not geared towards those w/o a car. There are reports of shuttle buses in Austin, TX— bringing people to shopping centers. Examination of what transportation options are currently, or could become, available would be necessary.

Jen: Is there a neighborhood that we could pull out as a case study that is most problematic regarding access?

Andrew: Northgate and South Seattle including Burien and White Center. Also, the Rainier Valley, where there are more economic, than transportation, issues.

Fe: The degree of food insecurity in Northgate is surprising.

Andrew: The areas of concern there is Lake City Way and around mall.

Laura R.: The area is populated by many seniors and recent immigrants, plus there are huge parking lots.

Tammy: Are there places that are located in incorporated Seattle that could serve as a case study?

Sylvia: Georgetown, South Park, Delridge.

Andrew: Previously Belltown, South Lake Union. However, they are both changing: there are now groceries that are new and more high-end.

Andrew: It is noteworthy that food access and transportation issues are moving out to the suburbs.

Erin: Metro prices just went up. Was cost a consideration?

Andrew: Really, we only looked at routes.

Tammy: I worked on a project with the North King County where we found that the customer base was more able to participate when given a bus pass. This indicated that the cost of riding the bus was a factor in the level of participation.

Erin: The language that we use in the paper is important. The term “access” does not mean same thing to all populations—what does access mean broadly and what does it mean specifically to individual groups?

Jen: To the extent possible, when rolling out this report, we can we lead with locations of poor access. It would be more powerful if we can be as specific as possible about individual locations and neighborhoods. That will make the report more tangible. For example, we can pull out Northgate as a “surprising place.” If we have different, more comprehensive piece then this would feed into a public dialogue. We can then take a case study approach.

Erin: We can get the health planning data if that would help to explain the differences between neighborhoods.

Laura R. I really liked the questions of access and climate impacts in higher income areas. That data helps make policy ramifications relevant city-wide. Access is redefined and expanded...another surprising finding that frames why this issue is important to everyone. We can pull out another case-study.

Andrew: I like this. But, I have to finish one thing at a time. A follow up of case-studies would be great. This report is based on 2000 Census data. This paper has been four years in the hopper. I want to be sure that the limitations of study are understood. Broad data, based on collected data, a general survey. We can expand later.

Sylvia: There should be a limitations section.

Pablo: I would put limitations in the methods section of the paper. Transform that disclaimer from a bullet into “this is step forward-- broad overview.”

Liz: Maybe the AFPC has a framing doc where we put forward the items that the Council believes should be the next actionable items. These points could be directed to the Mayor, we can highlight Northgate etc...tailor it for various target stakeholders.

Andrew: Cover letter idea is a good one. There needs to be a contextual lead in.

Tammy: Timeline?

Sylvia: Would be great to get done by April 16th.

Action: We have developed a guideline for reviewing and distributing papers. We will circulate.

Andrew: I would like final viewing and be able to give AFPC the thumbs up. That would be great.

Action: Jennifer Langston of the PI is interested in issue wants early copy of report.

Fe— The City is charged with doing a feasibility study on how to appropriate 40k to the emergency food system. There is a correlation between **Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (are you referencing the federal program or fresh f and v, in general)** and healthy nutrition. This is a key issue. The Bjorn report has been forwarded to Fe's director. This timing puts issue forward. This is a good, timely study.

Action: Please send additional changes and further suggestions on the report to Sylvia and Rebecca.

Next steps for Farm to School

Erin: LFHK is not just about Farm to School, but more of a comprehensive food systems package—it is viewed as such by policy makers. We have an opportunity to bridge AFPC work and F2S. There is plenty of work available. Now is the time to get involved in what interests you as we implement the policy. There is a lot to do. A few things coming up: There WEC wrap-up on **Wednesday at 1pm at the WEC offices**, and a couple of April meetings to do break-out work. An initial conversation has begun with the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). In November, there will be a—Regional F2S meeting organized by Ecotrust. The state level work that we and others have been doing is just an entry point. Locally, and under the geographic purview of the AFPC, there will be (at least) one pilot food bank program and one school participating in the pilot projects in King County. We have an opportunity for leadership role is here. We are being watched by our partners around the country to learn from what we do.

Sylvia: Our role may be to advise other localities on how state legislation relates or impacts local level actions and policy.

Tricia: We would like to put together a big celebration with all parties who had a hand in the passage of LFHK. We are looking at holding the event in mid to late May. The theme would be around the fact that state level policy has passed and where can it go locally?

Action: I am working on finishing the first draft of the F2S paper for the At the Table series.

Rebecca: We are thinking that we should make this a fairly high quality and high visibility event. Maybe we could include representative from the NCSL?

Tammy: Has the NCSL been working on this?

Sylvia: In May 2006 the NCSL held a meeting here (hosted by WSU KCE) and representatives from MS, MT, KY and WA went on field trips to schools and farms and met to discuss farm to school issues.

Jen: How does AFPC engage with the LFHK?

Tricia: For my paper, I would like to have a better understanding of what is the next step at local level.

Laura R.: WEC wrap-up of LFHK is on track. Maybe the AFPC can convene conversation locally? Is someone else doing this that we know of?

Tricia: The Farm to School Connections Team does this and should be involved. I am focused on that element.

Erin: We have had good fortune working with UW students...getting data, examples from other states. Could use help with EBT program development. I think their research informs policy.

Jen: It is particularly important for the AFPC to engage at local level. We are an important voice.

Pablo: I am willing to help recruit students to help with research.

Public Comment

Pete: I want to be helpful. I think that the meeting process is great. I have been on listserv for a while and am interested in being more involved

Melissa: WSU/King County Extension Environmental Educator, Darcy Batura and WSUKCE employee Melissa Campbell are collaborating with King County-Division of Solid Waste to research ways to increase residential food waste recovery. Their research will include a review of current literature and existing data to identify barriers and opportunities for success, collaboration with the WSU Marketing Department on developing an educational outreach campaign using the "community-based social marketing" approach, developing a program name, logo, and supporting outreach materials, further research on local food banks and meal programs to add to the King County "what do I do with" web information and partnering with the Master Recycler Composter program to support community outreach efforts.

Melissa and Darcy are interested in ideas and suggestions of the Acting Food Policy Council regarding this topic and hope that the AFPC will help inform and shape this project.

Tricia:

Action: The next F2S next is April 17th from 11am to 1pm, location TBD. This will focus specifically on LFHK policy and is an opportunity to present different points of view.

Meeting ended.