

## Seattle – King County Acting Food Policy Council

Meeting Notes, May 18, 2007

1. Introductions, in attendance: Fe Arreola, Trudy Bialic, Branden Born, Mary Embleton, Kelly Horton, Sylvia Kantor, Jen Lamson, Erin MacDougall, Pablo Monsivias, Tammy Morales, Laura Raymond  
Guests: Brian Lee, Andrew Bjorn, Karen Kinney, Laura N., Rachel  
Staff: Jen Naas

2. Debrief from April 20 meeting and recent events

Big messages:

- Transparency. AFPC needs to be more transparent in its work, not always clear why and what is going on
- Both city and county staff said that AFPC needs to show value by doing a project, AFPC should instigate this project, come up with ideas
- Emergency preparedness was a key theme
- Comment that the meeting was overall very positive - the meeting was full with departmental heads, we're in a moment of a movement. Lots of factors coming together right now

Events since 4/20 meeting

- Mayor's announcement on Tuesday (5/15/07) for opening of farmers' markets season. Linked climate change to food, farmer (Aaron Stout) mentioned AFPC formation
- As background, Braden sent information sent to mayor's press people on climate and LCA from the new Luce group's discoveries. Included all climate change aspects including fertilizer, transport, etc.
- Erin talked to Andrew Stout to give him info about the AFPC
- Follow up from this press conference: Tammy, Erin, others waited to see if press picked up on the release. Since they did not, Tammy is drafting an Op-Ed to send to the Times
- Kelly, Erin, others drafted up an education piece about the farm bill and the AFPC local role
- For the Op-Ed, suggested to pick up on a continuation of a past Times articles (see Lynda Mapes article on price of local food at: [http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2003705086\\_food13m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2003705086_food13m.html))
- Erin & Kelly will finish draft of Farm Bill education piece and send it out to the group to review.
- Suggested that AFPC members should send letters to the editor as residents – always a good way to get in the paper

More happenings

- Branden sent two emails to the Mayor's office to let them know about the AFPC and University research
- OSE and Branden also sent info from the Luce group's work on the LCA of an apple to Mayor's office
- Branden met with Phyllis Schullman and Mike Wong recently about food systems and how the city can be involved. Want to see city get more involved and draft ordinances including one that looks at an FPC and perhaps an FTE to help coordinate

- Both city staff wanted to know what the city can do to meet multiple goals and be cost effective. Branden pointed them to the Sound Food Report.
  - Councilmember Conlin is very interested in the food policy concept as well, buzz about endorsing a resolution is possible?
  - Entry point for AFPC might be through the concept of a “resilient city”
3. Review of AFPC structure
- Discuss any big questions about how AFPC arrived at some issues, i.e. geographic scale, why advisory rather than advocacy, etc.
  - Suggested that we be flexible about some of these thoughts, not tied down to answers right now.
  - Also discuss roles of the AFPC members, make sure we know the limits of each member, particularly those members who work for the city and county
  - Suggested that we are all comfortable with past decisions and have a more unified message if we are discussing the AFPC in the public eye.
  - Good to have discussions about it internally and externally. AFPC will need to repeat the info to stakeholders again and again.
  - The information on all of these decisions exist but how to make it available and get everyone to read it?
  - Suggested that AFPC is missing the community aspect, and getting the word out requires building a movement, getting more people to know what the AFPC is doing.
  - All members should be prepared, and perhaps it is a matter of structure that not everyone is involved in decision making, people on AFPC assume that there are leaders and will ask if they need people to step up.
  - Question from county is how the focus of the AFPC can add value to work that is being done, maybe this group is more focused on urban issues? How to show that it is more than that?
  - Branden questioned if people are comfortable. It was decided to move on.
  - **Note: Jen will work on putting some of these big questions in an FAQ for website**
4. Next Steps
- The message from the 4/20 meeting was to come up with a project – several project ideas
  - Message was that AFPC should initiate a project and then partner with the city and county to complete it
  - Important to think about the criteria for a project:  
Criteria brainstorm
    - Timeline (short and long term)
    - Needs to relevant to the city &/or county
    - Engage the sectors that are not present on the council
    - Also relevant to the Puget Sound Fresh
    - Potential for high visibility to the community
    - Touch on one of the big issues: social justice, emergency preparedness, public health benefits, environment, etc.
    - Not limited to one socioeconomic group
    - Policy implications – policy element is essential
    - Something that the FPC is uniquely situated to do, show the unique value of the group
    - Can find funding
    - AFPC has capacity to do it

- Project ideas
  - Institutional purchasing (schools, hospitals, etc)
  - White papers: specific topic oriented work – farm bill, measuring food insecurity, transportation linkages to food, greenhouse gas/climate change implications of food
  - Local thanksgiving: includes elements of pledge campaign, public leader commitments, linking to climate change (Seattle Climate Initiative), employer onsite pre-Thanksgiving farmers markets, also including low-income element,
    - Question, comment that there are few/no local turkeys – opportunity to bring up these types of issues
    - frame the message: what is the point of a local Thanksgiving?
    - discussion on climate change – there are many intricacies involved with local food and climate change
    - not just benefit to climate change but a triple bottom line of other benefits: land use, social, economic, etc.
    - benefit is also to show ways to address inefficiencies in the distribution network
    - might be a very high level so make sure that we can simplify it, make it relevant for the community
    - be careful to take advantage of the timing, not let quest for perfection get in the way
    - good way to frame the issue: business, economic argument
    - make sure we understand that Thanksgiving means different things to different people, be careful to be aware of the day and what it means for some people.
  - Eating through an emergency – maybe as a policy brief – 5<sup>th</sup> white paper
  - Another white paper: food through the waste stream
  - Promoting national ag day (first day of spring)
- Next steps
  - Might require work groups to get these things done
  - Have discussions with city and county people to make sure these ideas resonate
  - Jen handed out a draft proposal on Local Thanksgiving
  - Jen N. will send out a conference call meeting date to discuss the ideas more fully.

Note: Majority of the talk was about the Thanksgiving idea (if done carefully) in conjunction with the white papers.

5. Farm Bill – potential white paper #1

- Kelly and Erin developed a short education piece to share with representatives and elected officials to help them understand the implications of the farm bill
- Key element: How it affects Seattle/KC
- Feedback on structure by AFPC – send to Kelly
- Comment that this info is needed by public officials, important because most don't know much about the Farm Bill
- If this is intended as a white paper, does it have a public aspect to it?
- This should go directly to the senators and representatives as well, even though they may not have direct connections to appropriations or agriculture committees

6. Presentations: Food access and food insecurity

- Presentations by Andrew Bjorn and Brian Lee on transportation and food access as well as measuring food insecurity.

Note: Jen N. will follow up to get a summary of information from presentation.