

Seattle – King County Acting Food Policy Council Meeting Notes, June 15, 2007

1. Introductions, in attendance: Fe Arreola, Steve Bauck, Mary Embleton, Kelly Horton, Sylvia Kantor, Jen Lamson, Pablo Monsivias, Laura Raymond
Guests: Karen Lutejen, James Rufo Hill, Heather Day
Staff: Jen Naas
2. Farm Bill
 - Latest iteration: has impacts, issues in Seattle King County with direct impacts from Farm Bill
 - To send to King County Executive, other representatives
 - Quick turnover in farm bill on house side due to presidential elections – look to have it out before July 4th recess
 - Big change in inclusion from health professionals, but perhaps not a lot of changes in subsidies and food stamps in outcome of this farm bill
 - No WA representation to vote, but they can debate on floor and present information
 - Goal for the piece is education
 - From city perspective: working through the IDT and in touch with lobbyist, signing onto San Francisco mayor's work from Conference of Mayors (farm bill related)
 - Cover letter on the farm bill piece should give a specific thing to do; i.e. sign on with San Francisco's farm bill resolution
 - For this piece, group needs to decide if this is good and should be sent on (a vote required?)
 - Issues are in priority order
 - Comments:
 - Food stamps: perhaps increasing the funding is not the best policy, benefits those that need it the least
 - Ag system is not largely determined by, but the farm bill impacts and influences the ag system...
 - WA farmers don't get a lot of subsidies, dairies get the most benefit here in the state, a few wheat farmers; change to show the lack of support for specialty crop which benefits WA state... change all introductory bullets to be very specific to WA state
 - Decision to vote with idea of edits included. Need draft next week!
 - On-line edits to follow
 - Jen L. will help write the cover letters
 - AFPC could go up front and some of it goes to cover letter, shorten and tighten the language about it
 - Use fresh foods instead of fruits and vegetables (includes dairy, meat, grain)
 - **Get it finalized by June 29 so it can be sent before the 4th of July**
3. Project Planning
 - Consider the project plan with ideas from May 18th meeting
 - Short, medium and long term approaches
 - Short term is briefing reports
 - Medium term is local thanksgiving campaign
 - Long term is policy pieces to support institutional purchasing
 - Do we want to move forward with the plan?
 - Short term needs to be decided with a timeline. Turnaround might be an issue, if we can get a focused group it might be a faster turnaround

- Tilth is supportive of local Thanksgiving, and can show a direct action – giving away seeds to grow in time for Thanksgiving harvest
 - Harvest Fair to focus on “your place in the local food system”
 - Background on Local Thanksgiving – including some discussions for funding and support from leadership
 - Would be a “brought to you buy” from a group of sponsors including CHC, Puget Sound Fresh, AFPC, maybe city
 - What could be the role of the AFPC in this?
 - Demonstrate the value of the AFPC – perhaps the background supportive policy and information that can support the action – need to think about how to package the instigation of conversations
 - Perhaps also conversing with the media and being a partial spokes person roles
 - Gleaning for union gospel thanksgiving, getting elected officials to help glean (Jubilee farms) – bringing this to the decision makers and putting together the opportunities
 - Really want to involve community level groups, a good role for the AFPC
 - Help support community groups to apply for grants and funding to support the local T-day
 - **From the people here, it was unanimous to move forward with the proposed plan, but not a quorum**
4. Project Assignments
- How to move forward – reform the committees, form working groups?
 - Leave the committees dormant, but form the working committees to get projects done
 - Papers working group: Pablo, Sylvia, Branden, (Laura as resource)
 - Local Thanksgiving: Mary, Jen, Kelly, Fe, Laura
 - Long term – group needs education on what institutional purchasing means. Bring in education for July meeting: Farm to School connections to present
 - Connect with the lawyers who worked on legal issues and barriers to institutional purchasing. Check with Tammy on names
5. Next steps, updates
- Money for intern for summer – with potential candidates. Need an intern and money for fall
 - Branden is still working with city council - Conlin
 - IDT is presenting to sub cabinet next week – asking to continue to work on food at IDT level may ask for ½ time staff person for '09 to serve IDT and as AFPC
 - Discussion about goings-on in City – how the projects can influence and inform city administrative staff
 - Good idea to talk to city council during public budgeting hearings – advocate for food as a part of the budget. Get outside push.
 - Heather Day talked a bit about work of her organization, perhaps tabling at the event
 - County IDT – meeting on Monday to see how county departments fit into food issues
 - Richard Gelb asked to present climate change and food to director’s office (DNRP)
 - Met to solidify the group and their role
 - Meet quarterly
 - Sylvia back from Kellogg meeting
 - Discussions of food and also fitness aspects
 - How to get leverage from Kellogg to city and county
 - **Next meeting will be July 20th**
 - Still have last educational session – refugee and immigrant issues around food. Laura will look into this