

Good Shepherd Center, 4649 Sunnyside Ave N, Rm 223 Seattle, WA 98103

Meeting Notes

Present: Kelly Horton, Linda Nageotte, Steve Bauck, Laura Niemi, Erin MacDougall, Branden Born, SuJ'n Chon, Mary Embleton, Jen Lamson, Tammy Morales

Absent: Fe Arreola, Pablo Monsavais

Guests:

Tim Bernthal, Farm to Food Bank Program, CTED

Aja Peters-Mason, NOAA

Robin Cook, Lettuce link

Maureen Flaherty, Solid Ground

Heather Day and Travis English, Community Alliance for Global Justice

Noah O'Hare, Pike Place Market Manager

Updates

1. County Ordinance

In meetings with city and county council staff, the county staff indicated the possibility of passing a resolution to officially recognize a food policy council, but with no funding attached. The City of Seattle indicated a willingness to put funds into a part-time position, possibly with WSU providing benefits. Further discussions are taking place to work out the details about how the funds would flow, but it seems to be moving forward slowly.

2. Eat Local Update

Posters and pledge cards are ready to distribute. Also getting buttons printed. This year the campaign is partnering with a lot more counties and hoping for proclamations of support from several jurisdictions.

A special kick off event will be held Oct 24th with author Michael Abelman. The event starts at 6-8pm at the Everett Transit Center, Weyerhsuer room. Cascade Harvest Coalition is providing refreshments so Mary needs RSVPs asap.

On Nov 7th Ron Sims will take the pledge at Pike Place Market in an event similar to last year. Working with Greg Nickels office to have him take the pledge as well. The website is up, but needs to have the policy page updated.

The goal is to double the number of pledges from last year's count of 2500.

This year we added the word “affordable” to the advertising to remind folks about the value of local food.

3. Anti-Hunger Nutrition Coalition – legislative issues: cap pay day loans; WIC/Sr FMNP maintain funding; EFAP increase funding by 2mm for food purchases supporting Farm2Foodbank for additional year; feed healthy kids 4mm for lunch program

ACTION ITEMS

- **RSVP to Cascade Harvest Coalition if you plan to attend the Michael Ableman event** mary@oz.net
- **Check Eat Local for Thanksgiving policy page and send suggested edits to Laura Niemi** <http://www.pugetsoundfresh.org/eatlocal/local-food-policy.htm> laura.niemi@seattletilth.org
- **Take the Eat Local Pledge online!**

Community Alliance for Global Justice Teach in

Heather Day introduced the event that CAGJ is hosting on Friday and Saturday, December 5th and 6th. The goal of the event is to build collaboration among social justice, food sovereignty, environmental and other groups. The Saturday program will include hands on workshops, panels to understand corporate control of the food economy, etc. CAGJ also hopes to interest volunteers in their AGRA Watch and Food Justice Coalition work.

Heather is asking for a member of the AFPC to participate in the panel called “What difference does local make? Local/regional food policy” Other invited panelists/organizations include Viki Sonntag, Farm to School, and Local Food Action Initiative.

AFPC members offered advice and suggested possible speakers for other panels listed on the draft program.

ACTION ITEMS

- **Contact Tammy by November 5th if you are interested in serving on this panel**

Workshop

The County IDT is set to reconvene with some direction from the executive's office, we have some funding on the table, there's interest in official recognition and a pared down mandate.

Before beginning this workshop several questions arose: What is the plan for the AFPC next steps? Is this a plan for AFPC or FPC? For how long are we planning?

There was discussion that until there is clear information from city and county about the structure of the fpc, many of these questions cannot be answered. However, the goal remains the same, which is to keep moving our work forward since we're viewed by many other organizations as resource. *Our primary goal remains to get recognition of local government as an advisory body to improving our regional food system.*

There was discussion that our goal is clear, but that our unresolved need for funding has been distracting. The group agreed that we should not spend our limited resources on beginning a new project, but should focus on education and outreach. We need to articulate clear talking points for stakeholders and choose activities that support goal of recognition.

There was agreement that the AFPC should focus on activating citizens and other community groups who understand why this work is important and get them involved.

The group discussed the need for government to shift its spending priorities from strictly direct service to creating more coordinated system-wide efforts. The series of white papers, *At the Table with the AFPC*, have led to county-level interest in food systems issues and been instrumental in the renewed interest in a county interdepartmental team. We should be meeting with every council member in suburban cities and helping them understand how a food policy council could make their work better.

a. What criteria should we use to determine next steps?

There was discussion about the myriad criteria that should be used to choose where to put the limited resources of the AFPC. These included:

County-wide impact

Multiple benefits – outreach, service, political needs, etc.

Already underway

Raises visibility of the AFPC

Focused on “access”

Alignment with other priorities

City outreach should include cost benefit of this work and of creating a council

Tangible improvement

It should begin on transition work – the final structure is a shifting target, but should start creating background information to capture the history of the AFPC and its existing capacity, including the resources available through the member organizations

b. What current projects are underway?

The members agreed that our energy should focus on relationship-building and the current Eat Local for Thanksgiving campaign. Additionally, we should be on the lookout for possible AFPC efforts once the state legislative session begins.

c. Who are the appropriate partners for collaboration?

Several audiences were identified as partners who should be brought into this work. These include

Ag. Commission

CAGJ

Environmental and social justice organizations

Suburban city councils and mayors – who are top 5 most active or influential?

3 or 4 communities that have social justice issues in south county

The North and South County Human Services Alliances

The group also agreed to solicit the Suburban Cities Association for time on an upcoming agenda.

d. What work should we commit to?

The first priority is to begin a large scale outreach effort for relationship building with both community organizations and elected officials from surrounding cities.

There was discussion about identifying “ambassadors” to speak on our behalf with elected officials. These would include community members and other organizations who represent community members. Part of the outreach effort would include illustrating the AFPC’s role as a convener for important work.

ACTION ITEMS

- **Each AFPC member send Tammy 3-5 bullet points about how your organization’s work in the community has benefitted from your involvement with the AFPC**

- **Choose targeted community organizations and elected officials to begin outreach effort**
- **Choose appropriate “ambassadors” to communicate with targeted elected officials**
- **Refine talking points to share with a general audience**
- **Develop the ask of audience- sign the ELT pledge, come to meetings, call/email officials - integrating food policy/financial crisis/food crisis, write a letter - especially if you live in rural/suburban King County**
- **Use community events, conferences, dinners, etc to spread message**
- **Branden and Jen will draft a Good Food Citizen Editorial about food issues and the election**