

Acting Food Policy Council Meeting Notes

July 18, 2008

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

Present: Tammy Morales, Erin MacDougall, Mary Embleton, Steve Bauck, Kelly Horton, Laura Niemi, Pablo Monsavais, Branden Born, Linda Nageotte

Absent: Laura Raymond, Fe Arreola, Jen Lamson

Guests:

Phyllis Shulman, Council President Conlin's office

Kate Barkman, Lifelong AIDS Alliance

Claire Mocha, Mithun

Tim Bernthal, WSDA

Holly Freishtat, Cultivate Health

Meeting with Agriculture Commission Update:

Mary Embleton and Laura N. met with a committee of the Ag Commission and then the full committee. The objective was to smooth over small challenges that have arisen in the last three years. Challenges have in part been discontinuity of members and information.

The idea was to address commission concerns about duplication of efforts and discuss bridge between rural/urban concerns. Mary reported that the committee members had questions and some concerns that were addressed. The full commission meeting was more encouraging, with George Irwin offering to write a letter of support for a FPC. Andrew Stout of Full Circle Farm lent credence to the AFPC cause.

AFPC set itself up as filters of food policy issues while assuring the ag commission that there is always going to be a place for the ag commission and the expertise that it brings to the food conversation.

Julia Patterson is currently drafting an ordinance, and Mary asked that the commission lend its support to that ordinance.

Some members of the ag commission want the chance to see the ordinance before it is voted upon and will get a chance to do so next week

Follow up: Claire Dyckman will follow up with AFPC when need arises.

ACTION ITEM: Mary will keep Claire in the loop on progress of the ordinance and ask commissioners to write a letter of support.

County Council Ordinance Update:

August 4 is the date for the County council to vote on it, which means that it must be introduced by the 24th of July

Branden suggests that now is the time to contact interest groups in the county and city because this is their chance to weigh in on the ordinance before the city votes on it. The most important way for this to happen is through personal contact and letters to members rather than public comment.

There was some discussion about drafting a support letter that could be sent out to interest groups.

Brandon suggests that we try to send the Ag commission any information that we can before the official publication of the ordinance so as to make sure that they feel connected and recognized.

Phyllis Shulman indicated that the last version of the ordinance had the following representation on the FPC: WSU 1, city 2, ag commission 2, FPC 3 (to fill gaps and to guarantee some internal control), suburban cities have representation as well. These nominations are made by the county but with some input from other groups.

Funding is a bit uncertain for 2008, but it appears that the county has managed to find some funding through other channels.

If the county votes on August 4th, the city can vote on the 12th. The city resolution would establish the regional FPC as an advisory body to the city. It would release \$25,000 of funding for the FPC, then the city would draft an MOU with the county.

There was discussion about which City council members are supportive. It was decided that talking with Jean Godden about her support would be a good idea.

For the city ordinance it makes sense to lobby both council and executive branches because the way the resolution was drafted, the mayor has the opportunity to concur.

The ordinance doesn't really need the mayor's signature because it will go into law regardless, but still a good idea to seek support.

ACTION ITEM: Tammy will send Action Alert to various listserves and request for letters of support once the ordinance is introduced.

ACTION ITEM: Each member organization of the AFPC should write a letter of support to the County Council members as well.

Other Updates:

Local Food Action Initiative

Costs of the Local Food Action Initiative as determined by the executive branch:

-Council member Conlin approved \$50,000 to the DON to pay for a food action plan

- DPD said that it needs \$25,000 for staff time to do land use analysis in the LFAI, (zoning decisions around mid-sized grocery stores, how to create incentives for food gardens in multi-family housing developments)
- DON did not mention needing additional resources for some items in the LFAI, so the assumption is that these items will be done
- Branden's students will be able to tackle a number of the research items which will save some resources

ACTION ITEM: Branden will brief the City Council on food security analysis on Monday, July 21.

-\$2 for community gardens in the parks levy that has the potential to pass the C. Council if the parks levy goes on the Nov. ballot
There is no news on the City IDT, which had been working for about 2.5 years on food system enhancements.

Branden met with Rose F. (Exec. Liason for the City Council) after trying to contact Tim Ceis and was able to create a relationship with her that might be positive for future interaction with the Mayor.

They discussed a number of the mayor's top priorities and how they are directly in line with the LFAI, but that the communication that had come out of the mayor's office was misinformed.

ACTION ITEM:

Rose asked Branden to draft a few key points where the LFAI provides opportunities for the Mayor to create synergy in his priorities with the LFAI (this could come officially from UW).

Key people to lobby in the executive branch would be: Mayor Nickels, Tim Ceis, executive communications and media people.

Phyllis suggested that the LFAI not be mentioned but that all support come from the angle of the FPC.

National interest group support would possibly help. Mark Winne, Mark Musick, CFSC, Eco Trust, FPC of Vancouver and Toronto could be contacted.

Richard Conlin's office wants to work on several issues including:

- research into permanent homes for farmers markets (above and beyond OED's work, which is reactive rather than proactive)
- research into regulatory barriers to local food

-Erin MacD. suggested working over the summer to align priorities determined by Richard Conlin's office and previously determined priorities of the AFPC (this could happen through Max)

Mary mentioned the opportunity to share such research/ideas with suburban jurisdictions which may have the same issues. She mentioned a King County Farmers Market Assoc that could benefit from this information.

Harvest Celebration Article

Tricia Sexton has requested an article for the Harvest Celebration publication. It should include information about the Eat Local for Thanksgiving campaign and could use highlights from Viki Sonntag's report. This could be expanded to focus beyond one holiday. The working title is "Eat local from the harvest to the holidays."

The article should be used as a way to tie together all of the regional work that has been occurring and should include reference to all of the policy work going on.

ACTION ITEM: Tammy will send out last year's paper for adaptation.

Eat Local For Thanksgiving Campaign

Laura discussed the efforts to hire a staff member to take on some of this prep work and fundraising work. The person would be housed by Cascade Harvest Coalition.

Tammy suggests that the three people from the FPC already working on the campaign might be enough for now. Additional role for FPC members would be:

- contributing content to website
- pledge program
- attendance at kickoff event and talking to media

Farm to School

WSDA had very few applications for the new Farm to School position. Lack of suitable applicants for the coordinator position due in part to qualifications required

- Ellen Gray now on the hiring committee to find candidates
- Erin mentioned an upcoming meeting in Portland in Sept. (by invite only) to get together 15 or so people from each state working on Farm to School to help the movement

Holly Freishtat-Sustainable Food Specialist, Cultivate Health (WA Physicians for Social Responsibility-WAPSR)

- WAPSR is funded in part by Health Care Without Harm
- "National and Regional Trends for Healthy Food and Healthcare"
- See powerpoint for Holly's presentation

Powerpoint Q & A

-What is the budget impact for hospitals?

-start with where hosp. will save money first: Food composting.

-good food procurement policies (systemic) will be the key to saving money rather than cherry picking items. Marketing what they do will have a large impact. Hospitals can't just change the food they're serving and not advertise why.

-Timeline for a hospital getting on board

-ASHRA members are a prime example (ASHRA is a national assoc.)

-All ASHRA members are self-operating hospitals and are interested in "greening" the hospital

-food service directors of each hospital are collaborative with regard to information (unlike the hospital in its entirety)