



**Detroit Food Policy Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 19, 2014**

**5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

**Eastern Market Corporation**

**Minutes**

1) Welcome and Roll Call

In attendance: Ashley Atkinson, Phil Jones, DeWayne Wells, Marilyn NeferRa Barber, Sandra Turner-Handy, Velonda Thompson, Kami Pothukuchi, Roxanne Moore, Jerry Ann Hebron,  
Staff: Kibibi Blount-Dorn, Cheryl A. Simon

2) Opening Remarks – Jerry Ann Hebron for S. Olaker

Jerry welcomed everyone to the August meeting

3) Review and Acceptance of the June Meeting Minutes

Acceptance of minutes tabled until next month.

4) News from the Field: Operation Above Ground

Davita is not able to make it to today's meeting.

5) Strategic Plan Report and Activity: Developing Relationships with City Leaders

An updated detail of tasks and timeline for Objective A are attached. Objective A: Develop relationships with Mayor, City Council, Health Department and other City departments for the purpose of education and engaging them on the importance of food and the food system to all Detroit residents.

Sandra Turner-Handy is taking the lead on developing relationships with city government leaders. We obtained a list identifying the City Council committee structure, and the district managers. DFPC members have been polled to determine their council districts and relationships with council members and district staff. We sent letters to city council members requesting one-on-one meetings during September, and we will be scheduling meetings with district managers later in the fall. We would like to have a DFPC member from the councilmember's district attend each one-on-one. Sign up sheet passed around.

We submitted a request to Bryan Barnhill, chief talent officer for the mayor's office, for an appointee to the Food Policy Council, and followed up to confirm that the request was received.

We have not received a response from the request, but the mayor's office began making appointments to other bodies such as the Downtown Development Authority in mid-July. Our hope is that we will have an appointee from the Mayor's office as they go through the list of bodies that need appointments. We will follow up with Mr. Barnhill again if we do not have a response to the request by August 22. Once an appointment is made we will convene the government representatives to discuss strategies for engaging city leaders. During this meeting we will also determine key topics and messages that we will share with city council in a presentation.

We have participated with CDAD in compiling a map of organizations in the city. Once this mapping process is complete we will use the map to identify key organizations and community groups in each district.

Related to our objective of developing relationships with government leaders, we have several opportunities for partnership with food related organizations

Keep Growing Detroit – Land Lab is assisting urban farmers and gardeners in navigating recent changes to city ordinances related to urban agriculture as well as assisting growers in leasing and/or purchasing land for agricultural purposes. They are challenged by the lack of clear policies and procedures for purchasing city owned land in general and for agriculture purposes specifically. They would like to collaborate on initiatives that improve policies and procedures related to land sales for Detroit's urban agriculture community as well as in exploring alternatives for securing publicly owned land.

Detroit Food Justice Task Force – DFJTF is planning to hold Cook Eat Talk listening sessions in each city district to identify the concerns of residents regarding the food system, and developing advocacy campaigns around the specific needs of each district. They will be using the Food Security Policy as a framework to guide their issues identification and advocacy campaign. DFPC would partner with them in hosting listening sessions, advocating for priorities expressed by residents to city government, and would collect feedback on the Food Security Policy from residents during the listening sessions and formation of advocacy campaigns.

FoodLab - Operation Above Ground has been working for the past nine months to assist food entrepreneurs navigate the process of licensing their businesses. The challenges they encountered were lack of clarity about licensing processes for Detroit, lack of clear processes for emerging business types, and significantly higher licensing fees in Detroit compared to surrounding communities. They would like to partner with DFPC to assist with mapping the licensing process and appropriate licensing agencies for Detroit and the state; advocating to City Council, IPH and MDARD for adoption of licensing for emerging business types; advocating for more equitable fee structures for emerging business models; and public education about Operation Above Ground.

Michigan No Kid Hungry Coalition Michigan Chapter –the Michigan chapter is lead by the United Way of Southeast Michigan, and has organized the summer feeding programs in several counties for the past three years. The coalition is preparing to develop and advocacy campaign for the Child Nutrition reauthorization. They are looking for local partners to participate in developing an advocacy campaign and inform national advocates about the issues that should be included in the national policy agenda.

Ashley and Kami were at a meeting earlier this afternoon with Mayor Duggan for discussing land for urban agriculture. There was not a lot of information given and Ashley, Malik, Kami, Mark Covington, Myrtle, Warren Conner, and a few other representatives of urban agriculture. Duggan asked what gardeners want. Ashley said gardeners need land, more options for accessing land, and a transparent process for accessing land. The mayor perceives the program for purchasing side lots very successful because residents can apply on the website and see the results of the program. Duggan wants to determine if this process can be used for urban agriculture. City owned land will be transferred to the land bank. The mayor was open to ideas and suggestions related to leasing city owned land. Meeting participants attempted to discuss issues of purchasing land, and Mayor Duggan was not willing to approach this issue in the discussion. Ashley asked for assistance on a case by case basis for those who have already applied to purchase land for urban agriculture. He is willing to consider a three year lease at \$1 per lot per year. He is considering a priority window for experienced gardeners who have a track record with communities and organizations. They are willing to consider no insurance requirements, access to water, and disconnection of the water and sewerage charges. They identified a process to let organizations know that this is coming up. The meeting gives urban ag community an opportunity to let the city know about the priorities that were not addressed by the previous meetings with PDD.

Q: What is the next step? Is there another meeting?

A: They want quick feedback on how they can implement this plan through leasing land through the land bank. The group shared the document that came out of the land sale listening session, and informed the mayor that they should also contact the UAW and AG Advocates work groups.

Q: how do we guarantee that speculators don't come in and sweep up land before people who have participated in urban agriculture have an opportunity to access the program?

A: we need to put this question in writing for him to make sure this is included in the program. Asking for a liaison from the land bank to the Food Policy Council would be a good idea.

There is an updated action item and timeline for Item E: retail food establishment.

Q: who would oversee the hiring process for web developer and survey coordinator?

A: the HFA group will put out the request and make a recommendation to the executive committee.

Q: do we have a budget for the project.

A: we have a grant from the United Way that would fund the website and the survey.

**Propose that HFA work group identify candidates and make a recommendation to the full council.**

Q: would the survey coordinator be responsible for selecting the surveyors

A: yes

Q: would they be paid

A: yes

Q: what is the budget for the web developer

A: the work group estimated that his would cost \$1800

6) Coordinator Search/ Wrap Up

Cheryl shared that she is very thankful for the time that she has spent with DFPC. In her position at United Way she looks forward to bringing the lessons she has learned during her time at DFPC to people working with the traditional power structure in the community. We have posted the position and we have 5-8 applicants currently. The closing date is August 25. Please share the posting and encourage people to apply. We need to form a hiring committee, and Cheryl will serve as an advisor to the hiring committee. We have some open seats on the board; please share the call for nominations.

Kami: thank you for being the ambassador for this organization for people you come in contact with.

Jerry: thank you. You have made my time here pleasant. I look forward to continuing our relationship. Cheryl has made sure the transition is smooth to make the day to day operation keep going. The Executive Committee has decided that Kibibi will serve as the interim coordinator and the Executive Committee will support her in taking on the additional duties, and will compensate her for the time she serves in that position.

7) Reports from Governmental Representatives

a. Department of Health and Wellness Promotion – Dr. Velonda Thompson

The RFP went out for public health services and people are responding to it. The expectation is that for most of the services that the IPH had there will be a one year extension. There is no word if they will exercise it because people have to respond to the RFP

b. Legislative Branch Report

c. Executive Branch Report

8) Next Meeting – September 9, 2014 @ Community Location TBD

We need to have a meeting on the east side.

Kami appreciates having community locations, but wants to make sure we start on time.

The Executive Committee talked about the importance of being in the community. Sandra Turner-Handy will check with the Matrix Center (6 Mile and Gratiot), Forgotten Harvest has a mobile pantry at Matrix and they do a lot of work in the community. Sandra will confirm within

the next week so we will have enough time to give notice for the next meeting, and let the community know we will be there. If that doesn't work we can meet at EarthWorks or Georgia Street.

**Revisit item for the coordinator's search. We need volunteers to work with Jerry Ann on a Search Committee: Phil, DeWayne, Ashley, NeferRa, Velonda. After the deadline Jerry will send a doodle.**

Q: we already have interview questions and an interview rubric.

**Cheryl will send them to the search committee.**

Update on fundraising: our funding with Kellogg is contingent on developing a plan to raise match money. We met and discussed a strategy to address the concerns that Kellogg has with DFPC and our ability to raise the match dollars. We are meeting with Kellogg this Friday. We had a good discussion about funding opportunities, and identified some key funders that we should pursue like Kresge Foundation, McGregor Foundation, and Erb Foundation. We also identified who has good relationships with each funder. We discussed going after some diversified funding like a membership structure. If we could structure a tool where we have people join the organization through a membership fee and get some benefits it would give us some unrestricted funds from another source. We could offer some discounted insurance or something where people pay an annual membership fee and get a discount at the summit.

Q: do our bylaws say anything about restructuring ourselves as a membership organization?

A: we are not really talking about restructuring

Discussion: it may change the accountability of the organization, and we need to think about those questions. It could be a Friends program instead of membership.

The other piece of the conversation with Kellogg is the collaboration with DFPC and Detroit Food and Fitness Collaborative. DeWayne will be part of the meeting with Kellogg, and we will discuss the collaboration between the two organizations and some future opportunities.

We discussed the fact that DFFC is in the fifth year of its ten year vision, and we will be holding the fifth summit next year, so there are some opportunities to collaborate on the summit and update the food report.

#### 9) Public Comments

Phil: Thank you Cheryl for your service to the Detroit Food Policy Council. If you need anything from me call me.

Ashley: you exceeded your original commitment tho us

Phil: We need to be on time next month

Kami: I want to recognize Charity Hicks as a member of this council and as someone who helped document this work.

Jerry: Phil and Jerry discussed how the DFPC could come up with a meaningful remembrance of Charity such as a scholarship. It needs some kind of permanency. What about an annual lecture at the summit that will recognize issues that were important for her. We should go to her husband and ask for permission. We can't speak for Charity, we need to let her speak for

herself. We could **ask Lila Cabil for a suggestion**. It should be something that challenges us as Charity would challenge us. We need to continue to work on this so we have something by the summit.

Kibibi: presentation of gift

Marilyn: thank you Cheryl. When you start off as a trailblazer you don't know what is ahead of you. I am grateful for you stepping in and being the voice of everyone in the room. I'm happy for you. When things pass by your eyes consider us and the work you are doing. What ever suggestions you have offer them.

Cheryl: I will still be involved in the Food Policy Council.

#### 10) Announcements-

Saturday, August 23 Oakland Ave Farmers Market 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual The Healing Artist Festival 11-8 will have artist, performances, and food

Phil Jones is no longer be working at COLORS as of August 1<sup>st</sup>

Wayne State University Farmers Market is tomorrow 11-2, Chef demonstration at noon, and physical activity at 2

Blueberry tour on Saturday, the bus leaves KGD office at 9am – 2pm, RSVP if you can, \$5 and pay for the blueberries by the pound

Food Safety for farmers with Phil Tofo from MSUE. Sept 5 10-12:30 @ Plum Street

**Can we send announcements to council members so people who are not here get them? Yes**

National Women in Agriculture MI Chapter meeting Aug 22 at Sharon Missionary Baptist Church, Hannan House Saturday 9-12, 1-5 Friday

Mac Alive Saturday in district 5 starting at Genesis Hope

Sunday annual immunization fair will be held by IPH at Northend WIC location (Consodine), lunch will be served.

#### 11) Adjournment 7:24