



Detroit Food Policy Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

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

Eastern Market Corporation

Minutes

1) Welcome and Roll Call

In attendance: Phil Jones, Marilyn NeferRa Barber, Mimi Pledl, Sandra Turner Handy, Kathryn Lynch Underwood, Tepfirah Rushdan, Dan Carmody, Jerry Ann (phone)

Staff: Cheryl Simon, Kibibi Blount-Dorn

Guests: Eileen Haraminac, Anne Ginn, Renee Wallace

2) Review and Acceptance of the February Meeting Minutes – tabled

3) Chairperson's Report

We need to pull together our resources to put the finishing touches on the summit. There are postcards on the table for people to take, and we will have more printed. Our keynote speaker, LaDonna Redmond just shared that she is celebrating 15 years of sobriety. We will be sending out a meeting notice for the next summit planning meeting.

4) Summit Planning Discussion

Cheryl Simon requested that all council members help spread the word about the summit. An email announcement to all council members was sent last week that can be shared on email listserves and websites. Everyone can take save the date cards to distribute. We will have more available later this week. Council members can let us know if you have an event where we can come make an announcement or bring save the date cards.

Kibibi Blount Dorn reported that registration is open on our website. People can register on our website or onsite. Also, if they call the office we can mail a registration form to them.

Scholarships are available for those who need them.

We have included a draft of the agenda in the board packs. The youth track sessions will take place on both days of the summit this year. Table space is available for organizations. Council members who want to have resource tables for their organization should let me know by Friday. We need several volunteers. For the opening ceremony on Thursday we need a representative from each city council district to stand up in the audience and say a brief statement about what is going on in the food system in their community. We also need volunteers for facilitation teams and registration. I will have a volunteer sign up sheet to circulate at the meeting.

The youth track planning subcommittee will meet Friday at 10am. We will schedule a meeting of the summit planning committee for next week, and we will have a follow up meeting at the end of April.

5) Audit Report - tabled

6) Coordinator's Report

The coordinator's report is attached.

Cheryl Simon reported that she has compiled a list of information on our city council members. A list for council members was distributed and the council members were asked to indicate where they live and work. Each district will set up a district citizen advisory council and DFPC would like to be linked to each council. The official set up of the district councils must go through a process at city council to be established. Right now they are waiting for approval by the city's legal department. James Ribbron and MOSES are leading the process. The executive branch has appointed district liaisons for each district. Sandra Turner Handy offered to assist with gathering information.

We have submitted our 2013 grant report to the Kellogg Foundation. We still need to determine the follow up activities to the economic impact study that the Detroit Food and Fitness Collaborative is leading. We don't have a draft of the study yet, but hopefully it will be finished soon.

In addition, we have applied for another three year grant. Kellogg is interested in supporting us, but they have made it conditional upon raising a total of \$325,000 in matching funds over the next three years, including \$75,000 in the first year. We discussed fundraising strategies at the executive committee meeting. We have three strategies in mind for fundraising: raising more funds through foundations and corporations; developing joint proposals with our partnering organizations on projects; developing a grassroots campaign that might include a membership to the food policy council or annual fundraiser. All these things take time, and take resources to do. There are some council members that have offered to help. Simon will be following up with council members individually. Let us know if there is a project that we can work together on with other organizations.

Ashley Atkinson and Suezette Olaker are in Washington DC as part of a group making visits to congress members to discuss issues related to childhood obesity. The people they have been talking to are interested in the economic impact study. Q: Did we have an opportunity to suggest questions they might raise? People in the community are concerned with the use of pesticides as it affects bee population and health. There are state laws that regulate pesticides, and prohibits local governments from making their own regulations about pesticides. A: Ashley mentioned that they will be meeting with the EPA and the use of pesticides is one of the things they will be talking about.

We will be having Officer elections in May, and Phil and Dan are term limited as officers. We will have council member elections in November and we have several people who are term limited on the council. We need to plan for the nominating committee to meet just after the summit. Cheryl will check to see if government representatives have term limits.

7) Reports from Governmental Representatives

- a. Department of Health and Wellness Promotion – Dr. Velonda Thompson (not present)
- b. Legislative Branch Report – Kathryn Underwood

One of the main things Underwood will be working on is an animal ordinance. She has formed a group that includes about 10 people who are keeping animals, city departments, MDARD, and Michigan Humane Society. They have gotten sidetracked with the issue of grazing. They are considering doing a pilot project to find out what would be needed in the ordinance. This ordinance is different from the growing ordinance because there are a lot more concerns from community members. A big thing they will have to do is community education and engagement to get the larger community to embrace, or at least accept, animals. Kathryn invites people who have an innovative way to talk about animals to work with her on the summit session.

Q: Bees are part of the animal ordinance that the city is working on?

A: Yes. Underwood was trying to keep the grazing part separate, and deal with the bees and chickens first.

Q: Has anyone figured out how many goats and sheep would be needed to maintain city lots?

A: No but there are a lot of things that have not been considered
Kathryn invited Sandra Turner Handy to join the UAW.

MSU has agreed to help review agriculture projects that come to the city of Detroit. They will also help make suggestions on how to make projects successful. They are not as concerned about how to deal with smaller projects, but when larger projects are proposed they want to have a greater degree of scrutiny.

One of the GAMPS regulates animals, having animals, and how many animals you can have. They came out with a GAMPS that seems to say you can't have any animals in an area that is zoned residential, but Detroit is exempt from the GAMPS. We have concerns about other areas that are not exempt, so they made some suggestions for changes to the language. They don't know if the suggestions have been accepted, there is a meeting next week with the Agriculture Committee and Underwood will find out more information.

- c. Executive Branch Report

8) Next Meeting – April 8, 2014

9) Public Comments

Renee Wallace: Food Plus Detroit is sponsoring a 7 week training online addressing different parts of their methodology.

10) Announcements

Sandra Turner Handy: Students from Denby H.S. will be doing a garden with 25 raised beds, hoop house, rain barrels, community use stage and other projects as part of their graduation capstone project. They will sell vegetables in the community and will have a farm stand. They are working with Lawrence Tech to rehab some homes in the community for housing. It will become a legacy project after this graduating class

Cheryl Simon: DBCFSN is having a community engagement meeting on the food co-op and tutorial on the Ujamaa buying club on March 15 at Conscious Corner.

Friday, March 21 Keep Growing Detroit along with DFPC, Eastern Market and MSU are sponsoring a lecture and workshop with Anthony Flaccavento. The lecture will be at the Detroit Mercantile Co., 6-8 pm. He will hold a workshop on increasing the yield of gardens and farms March 22 at Vanguard Community Development. Flyers are on the table.

11) Adjournment - 6:32