



**Detroit Food Policy Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, February 11, 2014**

**Eastern Market Corporation**

**MINUTES**

1) Welcome and Roll Call

In attendance: Phil Jones, Suezette Olaker, Marilyn NeferRa Barber, Roxanne Moore, Mimi Pledl, Ashley Atkinson, Velonda Thompson, Jerry Ann Hebron, Betti Wiggins, Lydia Gutierrez, Dan Carmody. Staff: Cheryl Simon, Kibibi Blount-Dorn, Brenda Mutuma. Guests: Renee Wallace, Anne Ginn, Cory Wolford (Representative Gary Peters Office), Debra Thornton, Dengulanga Kapiloango, Karmen Client

2) Chairperson's Report

The turnout for today's meeting is disappointing. We have several things we need to talk about today.

3) Summit Planning Report

Cheryl Simon reported that we have had two Summit planning committee meetings that were well attended. We have confirmed LaDonna Redmond, founder of Campaign for Food Justice Now as the keynote speaker. There is a link to her website in the Coordinator's Report for more information on LaDonna and her work. Thanks to Betti Wiggins for securing a contribution to fund the keynote speaker expenses. We have save the date cards at the printer. They will be available in the next couple of days. We have lots of folks who have offered to do workshops. Renee Wallace will provide facilitation services. We have a meeting with the session presenters next Wednesday. If you are a presenter and you got the email with the presenters' worksheet, please fill out and return those by Monday. The youth track subcommittee met last week to plan a robust set of sessions for the youth that will allow them to discuss food issues that are important to them

4) Reports from Governmental Representatives

- a. Department of Health and Wellness Promotion – Dr. Velonda Thompson  
Nothing to report
- b. Legislative Branch Report – Kathryn Underwood
- c. Executive Branch Report

Marja Winters and Rob Anderson are both no longer with the Planning and Development Department. We need a new representative from the Executive Branch. Simon will speak with Brian Barnhill at the Mayor's office about appointing a new person. If you have a suggestion of who would be a good appointee, please contact her.

- 5) Review and Acceptance of the January Meeting Minutes  
Minutes approved.

- 6) Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee consists of NeferRa Barber, Betti Wiggins, Ashley Atkinson and Dan Carmody. There is one open seat as a result of Malik Yakini's resignation. There were three nominees, and two people accepted the nomination. Eileen Harminac and Tepfirah Rushdan accepted. The Nominating Committee recommends Tepfirah Rushdan be elected to fill the seat. Approved by consensus.

- 7) Emerson National Fellowship Project Report- Brenda Mutuma

Brenda Mutuma has been with DFPC for six months as part of the Emerson National Hunger Fellowship. Today is her last day with the DFPC. She thanked Cheryl and Phil for working with her for the last six months. She prepared a presentation to highlight some of the most important points of her report, and shared some reflections of her time with DFPC.

She observed how everyone here has a side hustle. They usually generate income, or at least involve a skill that has the potential to. 21 people have a side hustle as council members on DFPC. Brenda assessed the engagement tools of DFPC and made recommendations to improve the community engagement strategy. She emphasized the need to include community input in all projects. In the last visioning session for the summit, Mutuma pushed people to think about who should attend the summit. The group should be explicit about who will be engaged in terms of race, ethnicity, background, etc. If we want more marginalized people at the table, we need to be explicit about what income groups, what benefit recipients, etc. Mutuma emphasizes the importance of board training including anti-racism training. Conflict and stagnation in the history of DFPC arises from miscommunication. Time is also important. Council members have to make a push to show up to meetings, be dedicated to the work, and follow through with commitments. All the council members are extremely valuable, and if they don't have the time to commit to this work then who will? Council members should see the value of themselves and each other, and hold each other accountable to show up and get the work done. A full copy of her report will be sent to all Council members. She again thanked everyone for their time and support while working with DFPC.

- 8) Strategic Planning

The revised Strategic Plan is in the board pack. For those of you who were not here at the last meeting, we have been struggling with the strategic plan process. We had a retreat, and we adopted values and goals. The strategic plan was very long and we were having difficulty moving

through the tasks. With the guidance of several council members, Kibibi and Cheryl reassessed the strategic planning document and came up with a format that highlights several key goals. We pulled out the top objectives, and listed what strategic plan goal(s) each objective is related to.

For each of the 13 objectives, we identified action steps, timeline, outcomes, resources, engagement opportunities, research and evaluation, and communications strategies. Simon got an e-mail from Kami Pothukuchi within an hour of sending the document out. Pothukuchi discussed the Research and Policy Committee with Kathryn Underwood and they committed to carrying out the plan for updating the food security policy.

Wiggins asked how we get this amount of work done considering there is a lot of work included on the plan. We don't have a lot of staff. She recommended that we find additional human resources to assist the work groups, such as interns or fellows. Simon pointed out that in the past council members have played a major role in accomplishing tasks of the council. Karmen Client from the Youth Food Justice Task Force offered the time and energy of her group to assist the DFPC in enacting the strategy.

Atkinson suggested specifying who is responsible for the deliverables, reassessing the timelines to make sure everything is not due to be completed at the same time, and making sure we know where the work groups are resources. We should think about where we can participate in other projects, in the way we have with FoodPlus and licensing for food businesses. The strategy around retail grocery stores seems to have a very large scope, and it is unclear about if we are still going ahead with the Food Finder.

We should have more discussion about utilizing the resources of the youth to assist our staff. We have young people in the city that we could utilize, like AmeriCorps and FoodCorps.

The staff would like to know more about what the Food Justice Task Force is doing, and we appreciate the offer to do more work together. Client shared that the Youth Food Justice Task Force has similar goals to DFPC. They are participating in the Summit planning and may be able to help with other projects in the future. Young people go through workshops around food justice, talking to council members, and community engagement. We could also approach universities where students have to complete internships as part of their degrees. This also takes a certain amount of staff resources to coordinate with these programs.

Suzette Olaker thanked the staff for completing the strategic plan document. It can be a stand-alone document, or a starting point for further strategizing. We can move forward from this and figure out a way to put all the dates on one master timeline so we don't lose dates. We can revisit dates if there are shifts in priorities.

Wiggins wants to know if she can go and get help for her work group. She and other work group chairs are encouraged to identify additional resources. All the things in the documents are about implementation.

Strategic Plan approved and accepted.

Jones asked council members to review the objectives and see where you can see yourself participating

Carmody will participate in objective H. He also volunteered Fiona Ruddy from EMC staff  
Mimi Pledl– E. She offered the resources at Green Grocer,  
Jerry Ann Hebron– F

Do we have any ideas for the theme of the annual report? Cheryl will talk to Kami about the timing of doing another report that updates the data we presented in the first report. If we are not ready to do that, we should be thinking about a theme.

Ashley Atkinson: C and D. Keep Growing Detroit staff: G and I

Roxanne Moore– C, E

Suzette Olaker – G

We need to make sure we have discussions with the members who are not present today about what they will be involved in.

Everyone should participate in A. We could also have a liaison that attends the district council meetings and keep communication open between City Council and DFPC. Can we have also develop a list of resources so that as people find more resources we can add to the list? That should be easy

Lydia Gutierrez: A, H

Velonda Thompson– A

Phil Jones – B, I, E,

Jones shared a story about experiencing food poisoning three times from eating ground meat from one grocery store. There was a discussion about the need for small stores and gas stations to know the food regulations for food safety and to know that they need to have a food handlers' license.

#### 9) Next Meeting – March 11, 2014

#### 10) Public Comments

Gutierrez announced that got an e-mail from Mike Solaka that Ye Olde Butcher Shoppe is closing.

Hebron acknowledged the ground work that DFPC did with the Detroit Meijer stores. They have started making donations to the Storehouse of Hope Food Pantry.

Renee Wallace has been working on the summit with staff to make sure the content that comes out of the summit goes back into the work of DFPC. If anyone knows of people who are good note takers and scribes please give their names to staff.

#### 11) Announcements

Ashley Atkinson: Garden Resource Program applications are available, provides seeds, transplants, and gardening resources. Their goal is to grow by 30%, and they are asking for our help to spread the news about their resources. GRP potluck is on Thursday night, at Focus: HOPE, 6PM. Dig in Detroit Calendars will be available then.

Keep Growing Detroit is co-sponsoring Anthony Flacoveco lecture Friday, March 21 entitled "What's Love Got to Do With It" and half day workshop on Saturday. Atkinson is going to Russia for three weeks on a fellowship.

Did anybody attend the Farm Bill session last week and can report back? Dan attended. It's a large bill. Instead of commodity crops getting price support, crop insurance will be made available to specialty crops. It's unsure how small a producer can be and still get the insurance. The Double Up Food Bucks program will be a national program. The word "rural" has been removed from some agriculture programs. There is a \$100,000 grant program in Wayne County to help build hoop houses. We need to have a system for sharing this type of information within this group. Fair Food has a press release that people can share.

Jones announced that ROC-MI press conference around raising minimum wage, Thursday, 10am at COLORS

12) Adjournment – 7:33 pm.