

Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes 9/25/13

Members in attendance: Esperina Baptiste, Audrey Barr, Kristin duBay Horton, Alanna Kabel, David Kooris, Fred Kaskowitz, Margot Reynolds, Christine Stafstrom
Guests Present: Marie Desances, Sherelle Dorsey, Peggy Gallup, Iris Molina

The meeting began at 5:45pm. Council Members introduced themselves and gave a brief description of what brought them to the council.

Kristin duBay Horton opened with a brief discussion of food deserts in Bridgeport: the East End, the East Side, the South End and the area around Trumbull Gardens. She handed out several items for discussion to elucidate core points including:

- Two page summary of the East End's food access issues
- Two page summary highlighting the city's food deserts
- New Haven Food Policy Council's Assessment report
- CT's Food Policy Council's Town Level Assessment of Food Security
- Information on an October 17th event on Strengthening CT's Food System Summit – a meeting for local Food Policy Councils to get together and share ideas. To be held in Hartford at the Lyceum from 8:30am-3pm.
- Information on Bridgeport's Food Day event – to be held on October 24th either in McLevy Green or in Margaret Morton in case of rain.

Professor Peggy Gallup made a detailed presentation to the committee on how other food policy councils are run – core issues they take on – and made recommendations for first tasks to take on.



Bridgeport Food Policy Council Food for Thought

Dr. Peggy Gallup, Professor Public Health, Southern
Connecticut State University
On behalf of Bridgeport ACHIEVE

- Establish a structure and function that meets the needs of the FPC
- Create a mission statement to direct our work.
- Start with a clear target
- Coordinate activities with others doing this work in Bridgeport
- Publicize and energize our work
- Do an assessment and measure progress

Council members made suggestions and raised several questions to consider:

- Request for an assessment of what people like to eat – give examples of how to make those foods healthier.
- How can we find out everyone working on FPC issues in Bridgeport right now?
- How do we assess current state of food access in Bridgeport – what data is already available?

Mark Anastasi's presentation was postponed as he was urgently called to another meeting.

David Kooris discussed the work that the Office of Policy and Economic Development are undertaking related to Food Policy and the role of economic development. Included in his discussion were key projects including:

- Work with the NRZ to strengthen neighborhoods and the farmers market on the East End
- Waste food digester in the city's planned eco-industrial park

The group then discussed plans for their first event – a Food System Summit planned for sometime in November. The summit will seek to bring together: food producers (farmers, bakers, etc), food sellers (farmer's markets, grocers), restaurants and large organizations that make food (e.g. School nutrition center) in a half day session to see how we can work together to improve access to healthy foods.

A subcommittee was formed to discuss the summit (Christine, Sherelle, and Kristin) the following suggestions were made to the planning committee:

- Ensure a structure which allows people's voices to be heard – use teams or other breakout opportunities.
- Consider "Food Fighters" two former teachers from NY as a possible model to highlight.
- Understand what foods are inexpensive and highlight/educate community on how to use those items – look at URI bilingual educational materials on this topic

The committee decided that their next meeting should be held on Wednesday October 17th – 5:30pm at Margaret Morton Government Center in Conference Room C. Planned on the agenda is the city attorney's overview of the structure and running of the FPC and an update from the adhoc subcommittee on the Food System Summit. Committee can choose to elect officers at that meeting if they have quorum and choose to do so.

The meeting closed at 7:10pm.