



Bridgeport Food Policy Council – February 15, 2017 –999 Broad Street Conference Room C,
Bridgeport, CT

Members in attendance: Margot Gotterer, Christine Strafstrom, Raquel Rivera Pablo (A Pinch of Salt), Anna Greer (Sacred Heart University), Jacob Robison (OPED), Ronnesha Addison (BDHHS), Angel DePara (CAO)

Guests in attendance: Mary Green (Park City Initiative Corp), Sharlene Wong (Bridgeport Nutrition Center), Landon Horan (CCGB), Michelle McCabe (CCGB), Ellie Angerame (GVI), Cristina Sandolo (GVI), Heidi Vanderwal (BFMC), and Chelsea Gazillo (CCGB)

The meeting began at 6:10pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Food Policy
Council Updates

Maggie updated the Council on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Local Food, Local Places program that the Council applied to in collaboration with the Bridgeport Farmers Market Collaborative. The program is not connected to monetary funds, but will send consultants to Bridgeport to strategize how to make our farmers markets more accessible to residents and better serve the people of Bridgeport. The contract is currently on hold, as the EPA has been instructed not to release funds for new contracts by the new federal administration. Once these funds are released, we will get a timeline from the EPA. The consultants will host a two-day event that will include workshops, brainstorming sessions, and a presentation of case studies that are relevant to Bridgeport. The deliverable from the visit will be an action plan. Once the project is initiated, the Council will need to create a steering committee that will lead the logistics and communications for this project.

PC Coordinator
Position Update

On Monday February 13th and Wednesday February 15th, Tina Baptista, Ronnesha Addison, Milta Feliciano and Maggie Gotterer conducted a series of interviews for the Food Policy Council Coordinator position. The interviewers have selected a candidate to whom they will make an offer. The council must wait for the Human Resources Department to send out email about the candidate. The person hired for this position will provide administrative support to the Council, and will be housed within the Health Department. This is part-time, 19 hours/week position, funded for a year and a half. The Health Department plans to re-apply for continued grant funding to maintain the position if possible.

FPC
Vacant
Position
Update

Maggie updated the Council that there are currently five pending applications to fill the five vacant food policy council seats. Raquel, Anna, and Christine's applications are in background check phase. Mary Green's application has been submitted. Chelsea will follow-up with Jeanette and Angel to clarify the status of Jeanette's application to serve as both a liaison to City Council and a voting member of the Food Policy Council.

FPC
Report
Update

Maggie updated the Council that the final Food Policy Council report that outlines the 2017 recommendations is almost complete. The report will be completed for the Council to vote on at the March meeting. The following next steps for the report were agreed to in the meeting:

- Each member should read through the report when shared via the listerv and make any necessary edits or last comments by the end of the week.
- Sub-groups will identify any external stakeholders (i.e. other food policy councils, farmers, city council officials) who should review the report after the Council has approved the final draft and before it is published.
- Sub-groups will put together a dissemination plan and communication strategy for publishing the final report, including the target audiences and methods for reaching them (i.e. social media, personalized email). This will be shared at the March meeting for the Council to combine into a singular advocacy strategy.
- In advance of the April meeting, sub-groups should outline strategies for achieving their recommendations and milestones for tracking progress. Gina will share Get Healthy CT's tool that can be used for this purpose.
- Anna will share the draft public-facing document via the listerv including a black & white version for making copies.
- Maggie will contact the UB design student who created the infographic to accompany the report to request additional edits prior to the March meeting.
- The report will be presented at the Bridgeport Generation Now March meeting on the 15th. Presentations at other community organizations can be included in the dissemination plan.

Maggie met with Tina, from the BDHSS on February 15th. Tina updated that the 2017 Farmers Market fees have been finalized for the year, therefore the Food Policy Council's Food-Based Economic Development recommendation should address the vendor fee structure in 2018. Maggie recommended a tiered system that waives fees for farmers but requires necessary permitting from prepared food vendors. In the meantime, the Bridgeport Farmers Market Collaborative should continue to seek a waiver of farmer fees based on the 2017 fee structure. Ronnesha agreed to address this in her meeting with Maritza this week. Chelsea will provide a list of each market and the types of vendor at each market.

PC
vent

The Bridgeport Health and Human Service department has a small budget for the food policy council to host an event before the end of the fiscal year (June 30th). The amount of funds is currently unknown. Ronnesha stated that she believes the funds are more than \$800. Sharlene recommended we submit a proposal for the event soon, as this will allow enough time for the event to be approved and for funds to be allocated appropriately. The Food Policy Council's previous events included community discussion about hunger, a food system summit and a school breakfast panel. Recommendations for the planning of this event include:

- Provide childcare – Anna and Cristina recruit graduate students and interns for this purpose.
- Highlight all of the unique programming represented on the Bridgeport Food Policy Council, including new school garden lesson plans developed by Anna and GVI.

- Host at a community space that was easily accessible. Recommendations for location included the new Sacred Heart University building in Bridgeport, the HSW building, New Vision Ministry church.
- Invite legislators and state representatives.
- Combine efforts with the Bridgeport Farmers Market Collaborative who is also planning an event this spring.

Mission Statement

Michelle asked for an update on the crafting a new mission statement for the Food Policy Council. Maggie informed the council that the word-smithing of the FPC mission statement can be done on the Food Policy Council draft report document.

Additional FPC Updates

On March 14th, Urban Eats is hosting a networking event at Brewport. The event will connect farmers with Bridgeport-based food entrepreneurs.

Ellie updated the group that CT-NOFA conference will be on March 11th and 12th. This is a great place to learn more about being a CT farmer. Leah Penniman, who is the owner of Soul Fire Farm in upstate New York that works to end systemic racism in the food system will be the keynote speaker.

Anna updated the group that the Connecticut Food System Alliance will host a conference on June 3rd. The steering committee for this event is currently looking for a location. If you have any feedback regarding previous CFSA events, feedback is appreciated. The group is also hiring a new part-time chair.

Michelle asked if the Council could meet in the library again. The group decided to start rotating meeting locations. Angel recommended booking rooms in government buildings located are various locations within the city.

The meeting ended at 7:20pm.