



Bridgeport Food Policy Council – February 21, 2018
Thomas E. Carroll Nutrition Center, 113 Federal Street
Downstairs Classroom

Members in attendance: Christine Stafstrom, Raquel Rivera-Pablo, Jacob Robison (OPED), Maritza Bond (BDHSS) and Jessica Zielinski Meffert (BDHSS)

Guests in attendance: Cristina Sandolo (GVI), Landon Horan (FEED Center - CCGB), Heidi Vanderwal (BBFMC), Juniper Renee (AmeriCorps Vista), Christina Smith (Groundwork Bridgeport), Clinton J. Gee, Sr. (Kings Pantry), Lisa Neff (American Heart Association), Sharlene Wong (Bridgeport Nutrition Center)

Staff in attendance: Jessica Zielinski Meffert (BFPC Coordinator)

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 6:01 pm. Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

Meeting Minute Vote

There was not quorum at the meeting for voting on the January meeting minutes, they are tabled until the March meeting.

Presentation of Bridgeport Strategic Plan

Department of Health and Social Services

Maritza presented the BDHSS Strategic Plan for 2017-2022. Maritza explained she'd like to work with the BFPC to look into the Food Policy Ordinances to make sure they are operating to the benefit of the shared goals between the BFPC and the BDHSS. Maritza departed the meeting after a short Q&A session.

Recurring Business

By-Laws

Christine explained that Angel is out of the office today but hopes to provide an update next month.

Food Policy Council Pending Applications

Christine explained that Angel is out of the office today but hopes to provide an update next month. There are two open positions on the council and two pending applications for Clinton and Mary. Lisa shared that she has a list of open seats on FPCs across the state; she said she'll share this list with Christine.

VISTA Report

Juniper shared about the projects they are currently working on, which include:

- A City of Bridgeport Food Map in collaboration with the Council of Churches and a GIS specialist
- A Food Justice Plan that is currently soliciting input

- On-going representation of the BFPC at the state level FPC meetings
- Joining the advisory board of the state level FPC

Subgroup Updates

Urban Agriculture: Cristina explained that the RFP is out and they've received eleven responses back. Between March and September, the committee will review the proposals, select the top three to invite for interviews, and finalize the selection decision. Cristina explained that if anyone wants to help with reviewing the applications, they are welcome to please let her know; she will post this request to the listserv as well. To move the RFP approval process along, Cristina, Juniper, and Maggie are working to find out if the BFPC needs to vote on any part of the selection process or not. Jacob shared that OPED will be helping to move the proposal through City Council, and that he will put together a short list of three candidates by next week. Christine suggested that perhaps Maritza could also assist in moving the proposal through City Council. Cristina shared that once the three candidates are selected, she will put another invite out over the listserv for discussion of the candidates prior to selection of the top choice.

Food-Based Economic Development: Landon shared a working draft of the survey that will be used to capture data from Bridgeport food entrepreneurs about navigating the processes for starting and running a food business in Bridgeport. Landon asked if this survey will require a vote of approval by the BFPC. Clinton asked how the survey will be distributed, to which Landon responded that a list of recipients has been developed but the distribution method has not yet been finalized.

Community Outreach: Juniper stated that there still is not a chair for this subgroup. To recruit for this and other positions, Juniper explained that the subgroup will use VolunteerMatch.org as well as our listserv and partner channels. Christina said she could recommend some students from Housatonic College, and advised that Fairfield University also has service learning positions for students. Christina said she will share about this open position through her networks. Raquel suggested the subgroup try to connect with other groups that are already doing community outreach about similar topics and attend outreach events together.

School Wellness: Sharlene explained that the wellness policy has been officially adopted. There are three main goals in the policy which are: School Nutrition, Physical Activity and Physical Education Marketing, and Community Partnerships. These goals will be distributed to the school principals. Sharlene explained that she has been working with the principals to advance a few different projects, such as one for supplying students with water bottles to increase hydration. Sharlene shared that there are several obstacles to overcome for these projects, making the process slow. Raquel suggested that perhaps if a system of recognition was developed for rewarding the principal's efforts, that might help motivate action on the projects.

New Business and Community Announcements

Lisa asked if the BFPC will be taking a stance on the recent changes to SNAP. Christine responded that the BFPC could publish their stance as soon as they discuss it. Lisa said she would share with the BFPC what stance is published by the New Haven FPC.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm. The next meeting will be held on March 21st at Hall Neighborhood House Senior Center (Hallway A), 52 George E. Pipkin's Way, Bridgeport, CT.