



Bridgeport Food Policy Council – April 19, 2017 – Hall Neighborhood House Inc., 52 George E. Pipkin’s Way, Senior Center Hallway A

Members in attendance: Margot Gotterer, Jacob Robison (OPED) (departed 6:45), Angel DePara (CAO) (arrived 6:50), Ronnesha Addison (BDHSS), and Christine Strafstrom

Guests in attendance: Marcella Lawson (New Level Academy), Taylor Edelmann (Optimus Health Care), Erin Harkrader (LifeBridge), Helen Malcolm (BDHSS), Sharlene Wong (Bridgeport Nutrition Center), Raquel Rivera Pablo (A Pinch of Salt), Breanna Natale (BFMC), Anna Greer (Sacred Heart Univ.), Gina Smith (Bridgeport Hospital/ Get Healthy CT), Landon Horan (FEED Center), Clinton Gee (King’s Pantry), Meg Hourigan (HACFP/CFSA), Marielena Lima (Hartford Food System), Chelsea Gazillo (CCGB), Mary Green (Park City Initiative Corp), Edwin Rios (Reach the Nations Kingdom College), Daniel Recinos (RTNKC), Beau Selavka (RTNKC), Ellie Angerame (GVI), and Christina Smith (Groundwork Bridgeport)

Staff in attendance: Jessica Zielinski Meffert (BFPC Coordinator)

The meeting began at 6:03 pm. Attendees introduced themselves.

Old Business

EPA Grant

This grant is no longer under a freeze. The EPA has put out an RFP for consultants to lead the grant project and will follow up with Maggie once a contract is signed.

Food Policy Council Vacancies

Maggie reported that Angel is currently working through paperwork to determine the term length of each Council member, including those who vacated their seats before their term ended. This is required in order to determine which seat and which term limit new Council members would fill. There are currently 3 vacant seats, 1 expired seat applying for renewal (Christine), and 3 applications pending (Anna Greer, Raquel Rivera-Pablo, Mary Green). Clinton said that he has also submitted an application but has not confirmed that it was received. Maggie will follow up to connect him directly to Angel to confirm he received Clinton’s application.

Council Rules

Angel provided City Council rules as a model for the Food Policy to reference in drafting and formalizing their own rules. The rules were passed around the meeting. Chelsea will scan and share with the listserv.

Location of FPC Meetings

Chelsea reported that she booked meeting locations through the month of September. The meeting schedule is posted on the FPC Facebook page, Bridgeport's city website, and is also on the listserv calendar, and is as follows:

- 17 May - North Branch Public Library, 3455 Madison Ave, Bridgeport
- 21 June - Ralphola Taylor Community Center, 790 Central Ave, Bridgeport
- 19 July - Bridgeport Public Library Main Branch, 925 Broad St, Bridgeport - Community Room on the 3rd Floor
- 16 August - Burroughs Community Center, 2470 Fairfield Ave, Bridgeport
- 20 September - Thomas E. Carroll Nutrition Center, 139 Federal St, Bridgeport Downstairs Classroom

Maggie said that the Council will check in a few months to confirm that the rotating meeting schedule is working for everyone and can schedule the next six months at that point.

FPC Event

Raquel reported that the event location would likely be New Vision pending a decision on whether to hold the event on 17 or 25 May. Council discussion resulted in the decision to hold the event on 25 May.

- The event still needs to be formally named
- Marcella Lawson of New Level Academy offered 130 students that could volunteer at the event
- Have an event sign in sheet and collect emails to reach out to afterward
- Offer to add event attendees to the listserv

Community Food Security Award

It was suggested that a Community Food Security Award be given out at the FPC Event, and annually thereafter. Ideas for this award include:

- A nomination forum
- A proclamation from the Mayor
- Custom paintings as awards donated by local artist
- A rubric for scoring nominees
- Not having nominees from the FPC or FPC advisory board for this year

Chelsea will send out an email to the listserv with a survey about this award to hone in on some of the details for this year's award.

AmeriCorps Vista Position

Maggie reported that she and Chelsea submitted a grant application to New England Grassroots Environmental Fund to continue the shared VISTA position with the Bridgeport Farmers Market Collaborative.

Vote to Adopt 2017 Policy Report

A vote on the report was not held due to lack of quorum. Maggie reported that Maritza Bond sent comments via email about editing the report and they will be meeting soon to resolve any outstanding questions or comments.

Policy Report Dissemination Plans

Maggie sent the dissemination plan to the committee chairs for feedback. Maggie will bring to the May meeting for adoption by the Council.

The dissemination plan is available online here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/17fXgoIqj-T0wXyEAO6mdIJKjkgmutU_DzqV4FaGW-fk/edit?usp=sharing

New Business

Connecticut Food Justice Coalition Toolkit

Maggie reported that Isa Mujahid from CT-CORE is leading the CT Food Justice Coalition in developing a toolkit that will support residents and advocates in developing community-led food systems in CT. Maggie can connect anyone interested with Isa directly to learn more or get involved. This toolkit will include case studies on current work being done in the state in the areas of community food system projects, policy work, and community organizing, and is an opportunity for the Council to highlight accomplishments in Bridgeport.

Link to the minutes for the Connecticut Food Justice Coalition meeting on 5 April 2017:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B34fb8s1c5DnTmPJeG1WRUtZY0U/view?usp=sharing>

East End NRZ Pop Up Market and Cafe

Maggie reported that this market has been in the process of starting up for over a year now, and is renting a space on Stratford Avenue from Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust. The market is currently working to:

- Gain approval from Zoning for build site
- Procure building materials and other supplies
- Break ground in June and launch in September
- Obtain food, building material, and financial donations
- Sell products from local food entrepreneurs
- Become a 501c3
- Provide employment and job training to local youth and senior citizens

The Pop Up Market leadership has been invited to attend the next FPC meeting in May to provide further updates.

Health Department Listening Sessions

Ronnesha reported that the listening sessions began during National Public Health Week and will potentially continue for 11 more sessions held throughout the City pending Maritza's availability. The

target audience for these listening sessions is “anybody and everybody” who wants to inform the Health Department’s priorities.

Open Discussion

FPC Community Outreach Sub-Group

Maggie revisited the idea from last meeting that the FPC should establish a sub-group to carry out community outreach tasks for the FPC, such as:

- Disseminating the FPC Report
- Recruiting for vacant seats
- Recruiting for the advisory board
- Advertise the monthly meetings

Maggie suggested that a vote could be added to the May meeting to create this sub-group.

Listserv Feedback

Erin reported that emails sent through the listserv periodically end up in her spam folder, so she cautions others to check their spam folder if they feel they are missing posts.

Update from Sharlene about School Wellness

Marcella requested an update on the School Wellness Policy. Sharlene stated that there were revisions made to the policy for the superintendent so that she could move the policy forward. Other updates include:

- The menu has changed at the high school, students sent thank you cards afterward
- Students have been doing taste testing sessions to provide their opinions and ideas
- The menu continues to undergo revisions, there is bidding for higher quality items
- The Mayor has approved the budget for meals
- More parent involvement is wanted at parent committee meetings; meetings may be changed to 4 pm depending on availability of current attendees

FPC Mission and Openness to Newcomers

Raquel suggested that in focusing on community outreach and recruitment of new Council members, the Council evaluate how welcoming and inclusive meetings are to new attendees. Raquel proposed adding a section to next month’s meeting agenda for ‘public comment’ so non-Council members understand when they can contribute. Maggie stated that these ideas can be taken into account when formalizing Council rules.

Announcements

Helen and Ronnesha (Health Department) and Gina (Get Healthy CT)

The Health Department will be hosting ‘Walk and Talks’ every Saturdays between 6 May and 10 June from 9 – 10:30 AM at Seaside Park. This is a chance for community members to become more comfortable talking with health care providers.

Ellie Angerame - GVI

GVI's Youth Program is hiring. They are also hiring 3 new AmeriCorps VISTA members for next year. Also, May 6th is the 1st volunteer day on the GVI farm, and volunteer days will be every Saturday until the end of October. In regards to community outreach, there will be a Sanctuary City March on May 1st.

Anna Greer - CT Food System Alliance

There will be a Network Meeting July 22nd from 10am-3pm.

Hands Offering Hope - Marcella Lawson of New Level Academy

There will be a fundraiser at Bridgeport's East Side Chipotle on 7 May between 5-8pm. You must bring the flyer to in order for proceeds to benefit the Hands Offering Hope fundraiser. Marcella will share the event flyer via the listserv.

Erin Harkrader – LifeBridge

Fresh Connections is launching a new site at the Stratford Health Department in May. The North Branch and Burroughs libraries are also scheduled to launch Fresh Connections sites soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

The next meeting will be held 17 May at the North Branch Public Library, 3455 Madison Ave, Bridgeport, in the Community Room on the 3rd floor at 6:00pm