



Bridgeport Food Policy Council – May 17, 2017
North Branch Public Library, 3455 Madison Avenue

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

Guests in attendance: Taylor Edelmann (Optimus Health Care), Erin Harkrader (LifeBridge), Helen Malcolm (BDHSS), Raquel Rivera Pablo (A Pinch of Salt), Cristina Sandolo (GVI), Breanna Natale (BFMC), Anna Greer (Sacred Heart Univ.), Landon Horan (FEED Center), Clinton Gee (King's Pantry), Meg Hourigan (HACFP/CFSA), Chelsea Gazillo (CCGB), Mary Green (Park City Initiative Corp), Susan Tom (resident), Alicia Wilson (New Level Academy), Atanna Giboa (CT Food Bank), and Shauna Neale (GVI)

Staff in attendance: Jessica Zielinski Meffert (BFPC Coordinator)

The meeting began at 6:04 pm. Attendees introduced themselves.

Old Business

EPA Grant

Maggie explained that there is a consultant involved with the grant now and the planning process is now underway for holding a 1.5-day community workshop and forming a steering committee of 3-6 members. So far Maggie and Raquel are on the committee so there are openings for other interested persons. The steering committee will plan and promote the workshops to be held in late August or early September. Those interested in joining the steering committee should contact Maggie directly.

Food Policy Council Vacancies

Angel reported that three of the applications (Raquel, Christine, Anna) are almost done, the applicants just need to go before the Miscellaneous Matters Committee of City Council. Angel will be in touch with each of these three applicants about going before the committee. Angel also confirmed that Mary's application is at OIA for background check, and Clinton's paperwork is being notarized so he can begin the application.

FPC Event

Raquel provided the following details about the FPC event:

- Flyers have been approved and there is a distribution plan based on GVI's outreach locations
- Raquel and Breanna will flyer and seek volunteers Saturday during the Walk and Talk event
- Tabling organizations will bring their own materials to hand out and should arrive at 3pm

- Wednesday (May 24th) volunteers should arrive at 6:30 to help set-up
- Thursday (May 25th) volunteers should arrive at 2:30 to finish set-up
- A volunteer signup sheet has been created and is being shared for the following tasks: childcare, flyering, greeters, set-up, and tear-down.

Raquel noted that the point of this event is for residents to come away with knowledge of what is currently going on pertaining to food matters in Bridgeport, as well as what is coming up next.

Alicia asked on behalf of Marcella (New Level Academy) if transportation will be available for volunteers. Raquel responded that transportation is not being provided.

Council Rules

Christine shared a draft version of the proposed FPC by-laws. The shared draft provides an outline that is up for comments before further details are added. One item up for discussion is whether term dates should be altered to end simultaneously or end on a staggered timeline. Christine shared hard copies of the document and asked that council members contact her directly to comment or propose changes.

Ronnesha asked if this draft document had been shared with members not in attendance. Christine reported that this draft has not been circulated by email yet due to being only in the outline stage. Christine said a fuller draft will be circulated by email as a google doc before the next FPC meeting in June.

Council Votes

Adopting Food Policy Council Report

Maggie read aloud the changes to the food based economic development section of the report; all other sections are unchanged. Discussion was opened about the changed section of the report and there are no issues raised. Christine motioned to approve the report. Jacob seconded the motion and all voted in favor of passing the report.

Maggie will connect with each council sub-group before the June FPC meeting to discuss report dissemination.

Establishing Community Outreach Sub-group

Discussion at previous meetings about the need for this sub-group remains agreed upon. Jacob motioned to establish this sub-group. Christine seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

To follow up on the creation of this sub-group, Maggie asked who would like to join and the following volunteered to become members: Raquel, Mary, Taylor, and Breanna. Chelsea volunteered to coordinate the sub-group.

Sub-group Updates

Urban Agriculture

Cristina reported that this group will meet with the Zoning Department to draft ordinance and create a new zoning layer. The ordinance will need to be approved by City Council and the zoning layer will need to be approved by the Zoning Department.

School Wellness

Raquel reported that she and Sharlene met Monday with the Board of Education and will be meeting again in 2 weeks to review wellness policy, with September as the desired time for the policy to take effect.

Raquel shared that Sharlene has requested support with the food allergy issue she is working on. Chelsea reported that the AHA asked her to write an op-ed about the collaboration between the FPC and the Bridgeport Nutrition Center; Chelsea will share this op-ed on the listserv and social media when it is published.

Raquel suggested that next year, to highlight the progress being made in high school lunches, perhaps a student made videography art project, which could also raise awareness about the barriers in addressing elementary lunch quality. Raquel also shared that school lunches will be looking to incorporate foods from community gardens.

Food-Based Economic Development

Neither Landon or Erin had any updates to share.

Clinton asked when the farmers' markets would be opening. Raquel said Black Rock will be opening first on June 10th, with the rest of the markets following in late June/early July.

New Business

Undoing Racism Workshops

Maggie shared that several FPC representatives attended the Undoing Racism Workshop or will be attending a second session this coming weekend. Following this second workshop, Maggie suggested the FPC discusses how to apply the workshop's lessons to the work the FPC does.

Statewide Food Policy Council Network

Meg shared that she has been participating in this FPC for about a year and would like to coordinate the BFPC's involvement in the newly forming statewide network of FPCs for Connecticut., There will be a conference call at the end of June to discuss the formation of this network, which Meg has invited the BFPC to join. Meg asked to be in touch with her over the next two weeks and decide on a representative from the BFPC to the statewide network.

Council of Churches

Landon shared that the CCGB will be going before the City Commission on 30 May at 6:40 to request a special permit for the first shared-use commercial kitchen and she requested support in the form of attendance at the hearing.

Reservoir Community Farm

Cristina shared flyers for events that are coming up at Reservoir Community Farm and reported that the farm will be hosting summer meals. They are also hiring AmeriCorps VISTA positions now.

New Level Academy

Alicia passed along thanks on behalf of Marcella for the support received at the Chipotle fundraiser. Alicia shared that there will be an event coming up called Tasty Tacos and Delicious Desserts which is a fundraiser for children in Mexico. Admission to the event is \$25 and the event details will be shared on social media. The community is also invited to the joint birthday party Marcella is holding for her students Wednesday next week at Central High School...if anyone would like to bring birthday gifts, most of the students are male, ages 14-17 years old.

Chelsea's Last Meeting

Chelsea shared that her last FPC meeting will be in July as her VISTA position concludes, and she will miss the June meeting. If you have on-going FPC business with Chelsea, please arrange to meet with her between now and July.

The next meeting will be held on 21 June at the Ralphola Taylor Community Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.