



Bridgeport Food Policy Council – April 18, 2018
Ralphola Taylor Community Center, 790 Central Avenue
Community Room

Members in attendance: Maggie Gotterer, Christine Stafstrom, Raquel Rivera-Pablo, Anna Greer, Jacob Robison (OPED), Albertina Baptista (BDHSS) and Jessica Zielinski Meffert (BDHSS)
Staff in attendance: Jessica Zielinski Meffert (BFPC Coordinator)

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 6:00 pm.

Meeting Minute Vote

For the January meeting minutes, Anna motioned to approve the minutes, Jacob seconded, and all members voted in favor of approving the minutes.

For the February meeting minutes, Christine motioned to approve the minutes, Raquel seconded, and all members voted in favor of approving the minutes.

There are no meeting minutes for March, as the meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Council Report

By-Laws

Christine explained that the council sub groups should be referred to as advisory groups so as not to imply that the groups are made up of council members. The “sub group” terminology will be updated to “advisory group” in the by-laws. The by-laws are being reviewed by the City Attorney and Angel has explained that other councils do not typically have official by-laws, so this by-law review is not common practice and may inspire other councils to adopt official by-laws.

Food Policy Council Pending Applications

Maggie explained that Angel had previously updated that our applications are still in a queue to be reviewed. Separately, Maggie heard that a number of pending applications for other Commissions are moving through Miscellaneous Matters next week so our pending applications may be on the way. There are two open positions on the council and two pending applications for Clinton and Mary.

VISTA Report

Juniper shared about the projects currently in-work, 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 the outlined Principals document

Juniper passed out a draft outline for the Food Justice Principles to solicit feedback.

Feedback included:

The principles should include a list of organizations that are currently working on the same and similar issues in order to collaborate with such organizations, informing this council's work while avoiding re-inventing processes and results already devised, or working counter to on-going initiatives. This should include collaborating with the public, with city officials, and with private sector organizations.

The principles should not include too much background information or statistics that may require updates year to year. The focus of the document should be the discussion questions that will guide the crafting and vetting of policy recommendations.

The principles should be part of a living document that is housed where council members and the public can access the document, such as a copy on the City's BFPC webpage and a printed copy brought as reference material to council meetings.

The draft uses terminology modeled by CT CORE, a community organizing nonprofit focused on racial equity and led by people of color. However, the terminology may need to be prefaced at discussions and in documents to explain its origins and intent to avoid miscommunication and misunderstanding.

Juniper will use this feedback to create the next draft of the principles to share at the May BFPC meeting, which will be used to shape the discussion questions. Juniper will also send the principles she has found from other organizations to the council members so these principles can be considered in the drafting of the BFPC version. Juniper will also provide an update on the Bridgeport Food Map at the May meeting.

Subgroup Updates

Urban Agriculture: Juniper and Jacob explained that the Urban Agriculture Master Plan is presently going through community feedback sessions, and a consultant has been selected from Planning Interface to work with Isa from CT CORE. On 30 April there will be a Masterplan Stakeholder meeting.

Food-Based Economic Development: An update will be given at the May BFPC meeting.

Community Outreach: An update will be given at the May BFPC meeting.

School Wellness: An update will be given at the May BFPC meeting.

Food Policy Council Coordinator Position

Jess shared that the position offering for the new Food Policy Council Coordinator has been posted under City Job Listings on the City website and will be open until 3 May. Jess's last day with the council will be 16 May and Anna will take over the minutes until the new Coordinator is in place.

New Business and Community Announcements

Maria Ramos announced that the Reed Avenue Community Garden will be holding a spring clean-up on May 5th, and that all are invited to participate.

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm. The next meeting will be held on May 16th at Burroughs Community Center (The Learning Center Room), 2470 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport, CT.