



Food Policy Council Minutes

12/17/2015

Member in attendance: Fred Kaskowitz, Christine Stafstrom, Kristin duBay Horton, Margot Gotterer

Guests in attendance: Sabine Kuczo, Jonathan James, Clinton Gee, Tekowa Omara-Otunnu, Cristina Sandolo, Michelle McCabe, Meg Hourigan

Meeting was called to order at 6:10.

Healthy Corner Store Update: Kristin introduced Sabine Kuczo – new Deputy Director of Human Services who will be taking over the healthy corner stores and farmers market work. Sabine updated the group on the CDBG grant (\$20K) and that new stores would be solicited to take part in this year – with some potential of combining funding streams to do more than one and some request to have store owners play some role in the costs (e.g. maybe they buy the refrigerator and we buy the awning and register). Additional funds are coming from DPH (\$10K) that can help with registers. Sabine is also looking into potential small business or UI funds to add into the pot. Sabine is also working with the three owners already up and running to fix both the refrigerators and awnings. We will also be working with the NRZs to have them assist in recruiting store owners who are truly interested in the program who are in food deserts.

Structure of Food Policy Council: Maggie and Michelle presented on the way FPC were structured in other cities: e.g. Hartford's FPC has an annual report that they do that updates their Food Action Plan and New Haven has an advisory role. The group discussed these options as ways to increase participation and keep the community engaged. Several guests noted that this new role would help keep them involved.

Christine made a motion (Kristin 2nd) that the FPC create an Advisory Council that will engage community members and organizations to provide input to the FPC. The vote was unanimous in favor. Margot agreed to invite those who have previously shown an interest to the next meeting to join in this new role.

Kristin made a motion that the FPC write an annual report –in April on their progress and recommendations to the Mayor annually. (Christine 2nd) The vote was unanimous in favor.

Subcommittee Update: Maggie gave a brief update on the Farmers Market Collaborative and their plans to look into branding the program and to look at best practices from elsewhere. Group discussed concerns about the hiring of a new food service director and desire to get a letter into the Mayor on FPC having a role in that hire. Maggie agreed to draft the letter.

Food System Alliance Meeting Update: The group discussed the success of the December Food System Alliance held in Bridgeport and how many new young people attended. They will reach out to invite those who are local to take part in the Advisory Group.

Agenda for next meeting:

- Consider additional names for Advisory Board
- Consider setting up a meeting with new Mayor and City Council to educate them about the FPC.

Plus/Delta

- Great to have new people in the room!

The meeting ended at 7:32. Maggie motioned to adjourn (Kristin 2nd). The next scheduled meeting will be on January 20, 2016.