

Food Policy Council Minutes
4/15/2015

Members in attendance: Fred Kaskowitz, Christine Stafstrom, Esperina Baptiste Stubblefield, Kristin DuBay-Horton, Madison Wierzel, Raquel Rivera-Pablo, Jonathan James, Marie Desances

The meeting started at 6:15 and everyone introduced themselves.

FPC reviewed the past meeting minutes. Kristin moved to approve them, and Christine seconded it. The group approved unanimously.

Healthy Corner Stores (HCS) Update

Marie spoke about the HCS event that was supposed to be held on the 18th of April and has been moved to the 2nd of May, 2015. She also spoke about the first of the three corner store awnings (Vinny's Corner Store) to have been replaced with a HCS awning. Pictures of the new awning were distributed. She also spoke about the community garden event that was held on Friday at the Newfield Library. Approximately 19 children between the ages of 3-5 attended the event with their 3 teachers, along with one couple from the public. While groups of 4 children planted their seeds, Nancy Sweeney, Newfield Branch Librarian, read stories about food, farms and the supermarket. She also put on garden related finger puppet plays and then the children watched the movie The Curious Garden.

Marie also spoke about the HCS education program that is being held by Senator Moore and Marcia Maillard. On April 15, 2015 Senator Moore educated the store owners on how to store and properly maintain their fruits and vegetables.

Community Garden Update

Kristin spoke about the Bridgeport Food Access Map and planned changes that need to be made. The planned changes include adding the locations of food pantries, farmers markets and healthy corner stores and including information on the use numbers for the food pantries listed.

Farmers Market Update

Raquel gave the update on the Farmers Markets. She mentioned that the Farmers Market flyers are almost ready, with one minor change that needs to be made. She also spoke about holding fundraising throughout the city to help with the cost of the markets, including creating a Barnraiser fundraising page that will enable anyone interested to make donations directly to the markets. Wholesome Wave will be working closely as a mentor with the farmers' market committee. The committee is currently looking for a corporate market sponsor for each market to help with the administrative costs of running the markets.

Food Waste and Recapture update

No update, meeting was canceled.

Food Summit Agenda

The Food Summit is planned for Thursday, April 30 from 5pm-7pm and will take place at Cesar Batalla school. The group reviewed the planned agenda for the summit and discussed the format and logistics for the event.

Madison spoke about the idea of having a pilot program that will aide in changing the Bridgeport School menu. She also suggested asking Dawn to talk about what other cities are doing in regards to nutrition in the schools. FPC attendees suggested giving out samples of the food that children eat for breakfast to parents. They decided to present an equal sample of all menu items; and at the end of the event, determining which food is the most popular among the group based on the amount eaten. As part of the planning for the children's portion of the event, Kristin suggested having a face painter in addition to the pea seed planting and oatmeal bar activities that were already planned. The group discussed and confirmed the dinner menu for the event and agreed on the catering decision. The final portion of the discussion centered around the questions that would be asked of the parents at the end of the panel discussion. The questions agreed upon were

- What can the FPC do to support parents efforts to encourage healthy foods both at home and in school?
- What was the most surprising thing that you learned tonight during the meeting?

The meeting concluded at 7:30pm. Kristin moved to adjourn and Fred seconded the motion.