

District of Columbia Food Policy Council Meeting Notes
October 5, 2016

- I. Welcome and Introductions – SodexoMAGIC & DC Central Kitchen School Food Sampling**
 - a. Director, Laine Cidlowski
 - b. Chair, Spike Mendelsohn
 - c. Food Policy Council Members
 - d. Ex Officio DC Agency Members
 - e. Food Sampling
 - i. SodexoMAGIC and DC Central Kitchen provided samples of typical school lunch food such as tacos, salad bar, fruit, and a chicken and rice dish. Both spoke briefly about their focus on locally and sustainability sourced ingredients, fresh fruits and vegetables and explained that they offered to share samples after the last Sustainable Procurement working group meeting in September.
- II. Background on the Food Policy Council, Legislative Updates Director Cidlowski**
 - a. DC Food Policy Council Background
 - i. Director Cidlowski provided some context about the DC Food Policy Council. The group is newly formed with focus on food access, sustainability and will provide policy input to DC Council and Mayor for our local food system.
 - ii. All information and details on schedules for the full Food Policy Council and Working Group meetings and agendas will be posted online on www.dcfopolicy.org and open-dc.gov.
 - b. Meetings and Logistics
 - i. All meetings are scheduled for the upcoming year, all dates are online now and copies of the schedule are on the sign-in table here.
 - c. Legislative Updates
 - i. [FEED DC Act – Amendment Act of 2016](#)
 - Focus on expanding area of grocery store tax credit and supporting healthy corner stores
 - Public hearing already held, another hearing to be scheduled
 - ii. [Urban Farming & Food Security Amendment Act of 2016](#)
 - Proposal to amend existing act to clarify certain clauses
 - Allow transfer of certain responsibilities from the Department of Parks and Recreation to the Department of General Services
 - iii. Federal level – [Urban Agriculture Act of 2016](#)
 - Supports loans and grants for urban agriculture
 - Explores possibilities for vertical farms, rooftop farms, and soil testing opportunities
- III. Food Policy Council Members Present on Working Groups**
 - a. Local Food Business and Labor Development – Jonas Singer Co-Chair presented

- i. Goal to find small, simple discrete wins to build momentum for FPC
- ii. In FY17 budget, FPC received some money to conduct a food economy study
 - 1. FPC asks for input on what questions should be part of the study; if anyone can volunteer time or their skills
- iii. Opportunities to spur business development
 - 1. Specify food cottage industry
 - 2. Look at challenges of high rents for small businesses
 - 3. Explore cultivating startups
- iv. Identify funding sources
 - 1. Inventory of what federal funding is available
 - 2. DC is at a disadvantage not having a state Department of Agriculture
 - 3. Identify procurement opportunities for small business
- v. Outreach and Engagement
 - 1. Identify best practices to elicit feedback
 - 2. Move meeting locations to ensure that residents of all neighborhoods of DC can participate
- vi. Policy Review
 - 1. FPD asks for volunteers
 - 2. There are lots of regulations from decades past that preclude creation of new businesses
 - 3. Potentially develop white papers with policy recommendations for the council in the future

b. Food Equity, Access, and Health and Nutrition Education – Paula Reichel Co-Chair presented

- i. FEED DC Act
 - 1. Evaluate if grocery store tax credits are effective
 - 2. More grocery stores have come to DC since the passage of the act, but not in Anacostia
 - 3. Evaluate if act increases food access
- ii. The Washington Economic Development Partnership predicts that massive growth will occur around metro stations in the coming years. Will there be enough space for grocery stores to serve these growing, concentrated populations?
- iii. Grocery store disparity East of the River
 - 1. Wards 7 and 8 do not have enough grocery stores for the population
 - 2. FPC is looking for recommendations on locations where a grocery store is needed
 - 3. DMPED has a new position, the Grocery Store Ambassador
 - a. Great Streets grant program can provide funds for smaller stores

c. Sustainable Food Procurement – Alex Moore Co-Chair presented

i. Food in DCPS

1. The data that OSSE collects on food are aligned with the concerns of District families; need to develop better ways of communicating that information with the community
2. The movement toward fresher foods in DCPS does create some short-term impact of increased food waste
3. 76% of DCPS students are eligible for free and reduced lunches
4. DCPS only serves food to about a third of District residents. There are other institutions and the larger food infrastructure that need to be evaluated.
5. Systems
 - a. Explore having more, smaller vendors
 - b. Explore self-operated or in-house food service; this will require a lot of space, capital, and staff
 - c. Research-driven analysis to understand food infrastructure

d. Urban Agriculture and Food System Education – Chris Bradshaw and Joelle Robinson Co-chairs presented

- i. DGS recently published an RFI to identify urban agricultural properties
- ii. Maintain equity as a key value when approaching urban agriculture
 1. Urban agriculture requires a lot of resources like cold storage, water access, etc.
 2. What is the best way to foster innovation?
- iii. Community outreach
 1. Proposed creating a process to elicit community feedback

IV. Community Input on Priorities and Strategic Plan

a. Working Group Priorities

- i. Review of strategic plan
 1. Three goals: Increase agricultural land use, access to healthy food and growing the local food economy
 2. Overarching themes: data, food waste, equity
 3. FPC is allowed to fundraise from foundations and other organizations

b. Big Picture Issues

- i. Intersectionality of housing, labor, zoning, and transportation
 1. Can zoning be amended to account for health and wellness of a community?
 2. Currently the comprehensive plan is being updated. A good avenue to emphasize the importance of food access and food policy. The comprehensive plan is currently in the public engagement phase and has schedules a series of meetings.
 3. Can DHCH be a key partner in food policy?

4. Explore legislation re: landlord/small food business relationship; rent control/rent stabilization
5. Not incentivizing huge national chains, provides more opportunities for locally-owned businesses
- ii. Outline food policy in the budget, typically gets lost under multiple agencies/departments
- iii. Impacts of Food Policy on food service workers
- iv. How does food policy evolve as gentrification continues? Can food policy curb gentrification?
- v. FPC can be a conduit to inform program managers across District agencies to establish standard practices when regarding food
- vi. Communication within FPC
 1. Are there practices within FPC of attending each other's committee meetings? How is information shared within FPC?
- vii. Look at next generation food access, will food be available to areas of future population growth?
- viii. DC's strength in food technology platforms (i.e., UberEats, GrubHub, etc.). Are these platforms equitable?
- c. What can you do?
 - i. Provide comments to FPC
 - ii. Attend comprehensive plan public meetings

V. Announcements and Next Steps

- a. Next DCFPC Public Meeting – December 7
- b. Working Group Meetings – November dates now live online