



Meeting Notes

- Food Policy Council Member Priorities
 - What questions should our economic assessment for the food system ask?
 - Focus on labor and local food.
 - A department of Agriculture or Food (or variation) could have a big impact on DC
 - Tax break that relates to labor and food security
 - Pay businesses to train people on the job = wage subsidy
 - Considering using working group as a focus group
 - Make sure leaving no federal funding untapped
 - How best to leverage philanthropic organizations or startups
 - Labor
 - Get more food service workers involved in working group meetings
 - Long term minority businesses are being gentrified out of city. Look at legislation that can prevent it.
 - Want to get new business owners into working groups and find out how to make navigating startup process easier.
- **Priorities for This Coming Year**
 - *Health*
 - How to frame investment in food industry and urban agriculture? Frame it in terms of health (e.g. Obesity epidemic). Educate people about healthy food.
 - *Education*
 - Education investing at an early age in kids and health/food. “The kitchen community” – Kimball Musk
 - Yearlong educational curriculum – school of food – how to store, maintain & run “misfit economy” book
 - *Social Media*
 - Social media an option for transparency around food policy and city government
 - *Government Efficiency/Accountability*
 - Look at how to streamline existing administrative activities in DC government.
 - Look at existing agricultural legislation and help find ways to help them get implemented.
 - Twitter Baltimore contracts – where Baltimore government spends their contracts.
 - *ABRA* – distribution/import paperwork – where are all the time suckers in this process, how can we examine these processes and streamline the time-sucks?



DC Food Policy Council Meeting Notes

- DC Farmers Market collaboration – the permit process is tough to repeat annually - DCRA, DDOT and DOH. How does the cost of permits affect business owners, farmers, and organizations that run farmers markets?
- Cottage Food Act, Urban Farming Act
- Understanding policies and funding that's out there and available
- Don't get too centralized government planning, it's more important to invest in your talent/staff.
- Assessment of existing regulations and policies is required. Deeper detail is needed.
 - Who can help us gather data? Law students, etc.?
 - What do we want the assessment to get into?
- Funding
 - Incentives
 - Federal money
 - Foundation capital
- *Food Business Incentives*
 - What type of food businesses are we incentivizing in wards 7 and 8?
 - More effort put into what's being developed in communities like those.
 - Consider the current supermarket tax credit program. Includes healthy corner stores program.
 - Is there a new model that might work better or improve on it?
 - Finding ways to make rents and leases more affordable might be more effective.
 - Intersection between real estate and our priorities.
 - Supermarket tax credit is almost impossible to get.
 - Need to see how tax abatements or other legislation can be used to level playing field.
 - How to make the District a place where employees who work here can live here.
 - Need to adjust zoning regulations and see how they incentivize local businesses. Have ongoing dialogue with communities.
 - Avoid over regulating and depending on government legislation to mandate change.
 - Focus more on organic entrepreneurial approach in communities.
 - How many businesses are coops?
 - Coops = employees own equity in a business.
 - Needs to be part of conversation, recognize history of them and the history of DC government support for them.
 - "Global shapers" – Locally funded project – could be good resource to us (help w/survey).
 - Give tools to business owners to have good community relationships/support a community.
 - Take a holistic view of food business opportunity.



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- Make sure we include people who have tried/failed/accessibility for communities.
- *Influencing Existing Food Businesses*
 - Need to set straightforward mandates. Put pressure on businesses via consumers to influence businesses to meet demand.
 - Food rules will intersect with zoning laws.
 - Would like to see an award approach to supporting businesses with good missions. Detroit has a Golden Beet Award for food businesses doing good things in the community.
 - Detroit soup model of community engagement
 - Encourage market-led solutions, look at the Every Table restaurant market in Los Angeles, this is 2 locations, with different prices for different income communities, with the more affluent offsetting lower prices in the lower income community
- *Best Practices - What are model food businesses in DC?*
 - Fresh Farm Markets
 - Busboys and Poets
 - Think Food Group – Chef Andreas’s business has created a pipeline for labor and experience into multiple businesses.
 - Sweetgreen – bringing the healthy fast casual movement to DC and the country as a whole now
 - They’re one of the fastest growing fast casual. They are open to urban agriculture if enough supply can be provided.
 - Cava – great on labor. Good to their workers.
 - Depends on what factors we consider to be important.
 - Glens Garden Market. Business owners who are thinking of the broader community need to be celebrated and championed. More focus on mission driven aspect to businesses.
 - Good Food Market. Accessibility and affordability for the surrounding community needs to be considered.
 - Could survey what life is like in micro-communities.
- **How to Focus Efforts in Coming Year**
 - *Food System Economic Assessment – required by the legislation that set up the Food Policy Council*
 - Funds available on October 1 are operating funds. Generally allocated for economic assessment only.
 - Help clarify scope of this assessment. We should focus on how to make best use of this money.
 - Looking for volunteers to do deeper dive into existing regulations.
 - *Funding –*
 - Government money = fed and local



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- Private = investment
- financial incentives broadly
- *How We Do It: Community Outreach and Engagement* - Move meetings around to get more voices. Community engagement and feedback from restaurant owners and food service workers.
 - How to review current legislation (need fellows, interns and others).
 - Look at law schools and consider planning schools.
 - Have a way to survey groups that were not successful going through government programs = consultant can do that.
- *Policies* – what legislation is on the books and how to better leverage it and government mechanics (how policies work). – possibly hold focus groups to get more detail