District of Columbia Food Policy Council
June 5, 2019 6:00-7:30 pm
Agenda

1. **Introductions**
   a. Director Ona Balkus (ona.balkus@dc.gov)
   b. Food Policy Council Members: Tambra Raye Stevenson, Beverley Wheeler, Chris Bradshaw, Philip Sambol
   c. Ex-Officio DC Agency Members: Dan Guilbeault (DOEE), Kate Mereand (DSLBD), Virginia-Marie Roure (DSBLD), Amelia Peterson-Kosecki (DC Health), Sara Beckwith (DC Health), Beth Hanna (OSSE), Marie Whittaker (DMPED)

2. **Working Group Updates**
   a. Urban Agriculture
      i. Previous working group meeting had AU present on land trust and UDC presented on their programs; discussion on how they can improve
      ii. This meeting:
         1. Discussed awards of DGS land lease program; working to find more information on snags with DGS
         2. Newly proposed DOEE Office of Urban Ag – ways this office can support farmers for licensing, removing barriers to entry, infrastructure support
         3. Land support – ways that the FPC can expand access to urban farming
   b. Sustainable Procurement
      i. Held a working group meeting as a conference call last Friday
      ii. Working to connect more with other groups on sustainable procurement
         1. Want to learn more about the GFPP?: Join the GFPP Coalition: https://www.dcgreens.org/good-food-purchasing-program
         2. Want to learn more on school food? Join the School Food Advisory Board: https://www.dcgreens.org/school-food-advisory-board
      iii. Starting to conduct research on central kitchens and processing around the country
   c. Food Equity & Access/ Business & Labor
      i. 13 participants attended today
      ii. Healthy Food Financing Fund Actions
         1. Reviewed the DSLBD resources - completed
         2. Audit of workforce development resources – continuing
         3. Research on CDFIs – completed
         4. Pain points for 7/8 healthy food retailers – working on
         5. Framework and toolkit for what it means to be good food business – starting
      iii. Plan is to dig deeper into the three goals for the working group instead of taking new things on
   d. Nutrition & Food System Education
      i. Last month Jillian Griffith from Ward 8 Giant presented on Produce Rx and how nutrition education is tied into the program; list of organizations partnering with Giant to provide classes

ii. This month the group continued discussion around defining food literacy and making sure everyone has access to nutrition education and making sure we can better evaluate the programs and impact of nutrition education

iii. DCCK will be hosting a Nutrition Education Summit at UDC – July 22-23; more information will follow

3. **Policy & Legislative Updates**
   a. Fiscal Year 2020 (October 2019 – October 2020) DC Budget Updates
      i. Council has taken the final vote on the Local Budget Act; **these updates are semi-final, still need to pass the final Budget Support Act**
      ii. Potential changes included:
      iii. 1% increase in sales tax on soft drinks will fund:
         1. $3.5M over 4 years for funding Healthy Students Amendment Act- school breakfast increased reimbursement and central kitchen study
         2. $3.6M over 4 years for funding Healthy Parks Act- afterschool meals at DPR centers (3 FTEs, 53 part-time FTEs)
         3. $692K over 4 years to DC Health to implement WIC Expansion Act (includes 2 FTEs)
         4. $1M over 4 years to fund Produce Rx
         5. Also funding for lead line replacement
      iv. DC Health Community Health Grants
         1. Produce Plus
         2. Healthy Corners
         3. Joyful Markets
         4. Pop-Up Family Markets
      v. Office of Urban Agriculture Establishment at DOEE (through the Budget Support Act)
         1. Provide important resources for aspiring and well-established farmers
      vi. Self-Operated School Food Service Pilot- 2 years
         1. 10 schools in 2020-21, 2021-22 school years
         2. Student satisfaction surveys
   b. Food Policy Bills
      i. Have had a hearing:
         1. B23-0192 Cottage Food Expansion Act of 2019 (4/23/2019)
            a. Amends the Cottage Food Act of 2013; removes the $25,000 cap on revenue; expands the venue of where producers can sell their food to directly to consumers; eliminates the DC Health inspection before the business can sell their products
         2. B23-0131 Ward 7 & Ward 8 Restaurant Incentive Program Establishment Act of 2019 (6/3/2019)
            a. Establishes the Ward 7 and Ward 8 Restaurant Incentive Program within the Department of Small and Local Business Development to provide funding, business development assistance, incubation services, and technical assistance to those seeking to open a new restaurant or food establishment in Ward 7 or Ward 8.

3. Advocacy tip: For bills that have already had hearings, you can still submit testimony and enter your comments into the public comment period.

ii. Have not had a hearing:

1. B23-0092 Grocery Store Development Projects Labor Peace Agreement Amendment Act of 2019 **(Hearing scheduled for June 19)**

   a. Extends the requirement for labor peace agreements to grocery store development projects.

2. B23-0180 On-Site Services Act of 2019 **(Hearing scheduled for June 11)**

   a. Requires qualifying housing providers to provide on-site services including food and nutrition services; establishes an On-Site Services program to provide funding to qualifying public providers and monitor services

3. B23-0122 Cashless Retail Prohibition Act of 2019

   a. Prohibits retailers from refusing to accept cash as payment, posting that cash is not accepted, or charging different prices to customers based on their payment method

4. B23-0190 Healthy Beverages for Kids Meals Act of 2019

   a. Requires that beverages included in children's meals offered by food establishments meet certain nutrition standards.

5. B23-0231 Healthy Shelters Act of 2019

   a. Establishes nutrition standards and requirements for meals served in shelters; ensures adequate meals in times of weather emergencies; encourages local foods to be served in shelters; requires that Department of Human Services be directly responsible for all contracts, reporting, and compliance regarding homeless shelter food services; establishes monitoring requirement for food services; permits the use of donated and recovered food at shelters; ensures nonprofit organizations are not competitively disadvantaged when bidding for homeless shelter food services; establishes grants for nutrition education, gardens, and play structures at family shelters; and requires shelters to provide employment services for residents experiencing homelessness

c. Check out our updated legislative tracker: https://dcfoodpolicy.org/policy/legislation/

4. FPC Updates

a. Policy Analyst Position: https://careers.dc.gov; search for position "**7462"**

   i. We encourage you to apply for the position. You can learn more about the position on our website: https://dcfoodpolicy.org/2019/06/04/join-our-team-were-hiring/

b. 2018 Food System Assessment Released: https://dcfoodpolicy.org/resources/reports/

   i. The report is our attempt to show all of the data related to food in the District in one place so you can access information on the food system

   ii. We will do updates every year – this year established the baselines

   iii. Thanks to our government partners for sharing their data!

c. Release of Sustainable DC 2.0: http://www.sustainabledc.org/

   i. Since our last meeting in April, SDC 2.0 was released.

   ii. FPC was really involved in the development of the food part of the plan

      iii.   Really broad plan – governance and equity are the two frameworks to guide the plan – also built out climate, education, economic justice

      iv.   The Plan includes a crosswalk of plans across the District which shows how the plan relates to other plans

      v.   Food Goals:

          1.   Expand agricultural uses and production within the District (still need the baseline)

          2.   Ensure that all residents have access to affordable, quality, and nutritious food

          3.   Develop and support the food industry as a vibrant and equitable sector of the local economy

          4.   Prevent, reduce, and recover food waste

      vi.   Q&A:

          1.   How long will this plan be in place? Every five years will do an update; every five years may not have a substantial update

5.   Local Spotlight Presentations

   a.   DC Free Summer Meals Program

      i.   Any child can go to these centers and get free summer meals

      ii.   Summer meal sites open on June 17th

      iii.   You can learn more

          1.   https://osse.dc.gov/dcsummermeals

          2.   **Text "FOOD" to 877-877 or call 1-866-3-HUNGRY**

          3.   OSSE will also have a list of sites of summer meals on their website

      iv.   DPR is still accepting organizations to serve summer meals – if you know of a site that might want to host summer meals, contact DC Hunger Solutions Paige Pokorney at PPokorney@dchunger.org

   b.   Baltimore Food Policy Council (Holly Frieshtat, Food Policy Director, City of Baltimore); website here: https://planning.baltimorecity.gov/baltimore-food-policy-initiative;

      i.   View the presentation here.

      ii.   Joined by Alice Huang, Food Access Planner, and Sarah Buzogany, Food Resilience Planner. Baltimore is a team of three and try to build collaborations/partnerships as they go.

      iii.   3 key pillars

          1.   Interagency collaboration: 12 city agencies are doing work on food

          2.   Food Policy Action Coalition: similar to the DC council and working groups; a coalition of around 60 members

          3.   Resident Food Equity Advisors: 14-16 advisors

      iv.   Sustainable Plan was just adopted and includes sections on food systems and urban ag

   c.   One key driving factor is using food as a catalyst to address health, economic, and environmental disparities in Healthy Food Priority Areas

          1.   No longer using term "food deserts" and instead say Healthy Food Priority Areas; however, definition remains the same because it is scientifically based in the work done by Joh Hopkin's Center for a Livable Future.

          2.   When we look at food environment map, there are 4 key factors.

              a.   John's Hopkins has done healthy food retail scores of Baltimore's food environment, which are embedded in the definition.

          3.   Based on this definition, 23% of Baltimore residents are in Priority Areas

ii. Bread and butter of the work are food environment maps and briefs (learn more [here](#)) that go into detail about the food retail environment.
iii. Healthy Food Environment Strategy
1. Very broad strategy because it allows us to be nimble
2. Created an 8-point plan because there is no one solution
3. We do not have the luxury to address one at a time, so addressing each issue needs to happen at the same time. This is why collaboration is extremely important and why they continue to try to develop an army of people addressing food in Baltimore.
4. Food and equity: newest and hardest work Baltimore is doing.
    a. Food Policy Action Coalition
        i. Something we continue to evolve every couple of years
        ii. Always 50 people on the PAC
        iii. A great place to share as a network
        iv. Does not necessarily move or drive policy, which is a big question Holly is trying to figure out
        v. Resident Food Equity Advisors
        vi. 14-16 advisors, compensated for their time, attend 7 meetings
        vii. Collaborative governance model where the group picks one issue/topic and dives deep to determine strategies to use in the city
        viii. An example of the advisors' work are the Corner Store Recommendations. Advisors presented the recommendations to the mayor and the council and encouraged Baltimore to create a Healthy Food Priority Fund, which hopefully will be approved and funded by city government
iv. Scale and scope of policies and programs
1. Federal Nutrition Assistance
    a. Online SNAP Pilot
        i. Should roll out next year, New York City just rolled out this year.
        ii. Involves three approved retailers: Amazon, Safeway, and ShopRite
        iii. DC may not want to do a pilot of a work around program, like the Virtual Supermarkets program, because participation has been low in that program. However, it provided mechanism to become a pilot site for online SNAP
        iv. Technology needs to be developed in these pilots, because after it is complete, all states will roll out online SNAP
        v. Need to learn how to get community engagement and make sure residents are aware it's happening and getting feedback from the community and retailers.
    b. Supermarkets: grocery store tax incentive, non-profit grocery store, and virtual supermarket program
    c. Food resilience: frame food as critical infrastructure
        i. Food is protected during an emergency and is a part of the Emergency Resilience Center to mobilize actions and funding to allow individuals to access food
2. Schools
    a. Schools have been doing some amazing work around food and have made increases in fresh foods offered in schools, farm to school coordinators

b. Schools have embraced a Good Food Purchasing Programs and did a yearlong review of how they would implement good food procurement, but it's not been formally adopted yet. Draft of plan looks good, but not final.

3. Urban Ag
   a. Office of Sustainability has an environmental planner who has been working with Holly and team on urban ag
   b. Really strong on policy here, but implementation is a different story
   c. Urban ag section is really strong in the Baltimore Sustainable Plan
   d. Really working on how to make agriculture a permanent use in the city, not just temporary uses of land until something else can be built

v. Central Commissary – Baltimore has started to move forward to create a central commissary using an existing facility to create some key foods, like sauces, commodity foods, or chicken, but not all the foods served in school.
   1. The purpose is to operate year-round and serve summer meals

d. Montgomery County Food Policy Council (Heather Bruskin, Executive Director, Montgomery County Food Council); website: https://mocofoodcouncil.org/
   i. Council is a nonprofit and operates as a 501(3)c, but does work closely with government agencies and does similar work to DC and Baltimore Councils
      1. Work as a central convener of government agencies, non-profits, businesses to share information and create a robust, sustainable, and equitable local food system
   ii. 25 council members who are selected volunteers who represent different aspects of the local food system and lead four working groups that bring together over 300 different partners–
      1. Food Recovery and Access –
         a. Montgomery County has over 60,000 residents that are food insecure, and around half are children
         b. In 2017, partnered with County government to create and pass a Food Security Plan, which is a five-year strategic plan.
         c. Plan includes a Senior SNAP Outreach program to encourage residents to take advantage of food resources. Food Council works with government to recruit and train volunteers to help get seniors enrolled in food assistance/benefits
         d. Community Advisory Board – involves residents who are striving to be resources to their communities and bring their lived experience into policies and program implementations
         e. Nutrition education – did an assessment of what programs existed, surveyed to stakeholders, providers, and key informants to determine what types of services are already offered and what are opportunities that they see for growth
            i. Currently compiling results into a report, which can act as an advocacy tool or a referral tool for residents interested in those services
         f. Implement screen and intervene programs in school health clinics, community-based health clinics, and workforce development centers for food insecurity
         g. Also working on programs around culturally appropriate foods and resources
         h. Food Data Source – map that brings together 80 data sets across the county to look at what the food environment looks like locally or statewide
         i. Looking into implementing nutrition standards for food assistance providers/sites across the county

2. Local Food Economy
    a. Local made program in partnership with county economic development corporation
    b. County has over 200 food producing farms owned by residents and most are very small and small profits, so we are looking for ways to get them access to capital, customers, and infrastructure for these businesses
    c. Working with farmers to establish cooperative aggregation and distribution in program to help increase volume as a community and get access to new markets
    d. Trying to facilitate ways for farmers to work together and working with Office of Ag and some small producers to determine who is interested and what they would like to get out of working collaboratively with other farmers. Many are willing to adjust what they are growing/selling.
        i. Looking at licensing processes for emerging food businesses who are looking for more opportunities to demo foods.
3. Environmental Impact Group
    a. Working to increase waste composting capacity to reduce food waste at all levels (commercial, backyard, community composting)
    b. Looking into look food procurement issues
    c. Central processing facility: warehouse that acts a distribution and repackaging center
        i. Schools make 150,000 meals every day, so they created a central processing facility which helped increase efficiency and cost-effectiveness
        ii. However, schools themselves have no infrastructure/equipment for food processing since everything is done at the central processing facility, which limits changes or creativity in school meals.
        iii. It also limits ability of smaller farmers/producers to provide food to schools, because they need to be able to provide enough for all meals
4. Food Education
    a. Assessed what resources provide access around gardening and culinary skills and nutrition for residents and determining how can we increase those resources and opportunities
    b. Looking at different models in DC and elsewhere to replicate in the County
iii. Working to expand community engagement, site visits, policy and advocacy
    1. Host regular happy hours and site visits to get local government and residents involved and increase community engagement
iv. June 28th – MoCo's next meeting; annual update for their Food Security Study
v. All working groups meet once a month
e. Upcoming District Grant Opportunities
    i. OSSE Grants (Beth Hanna)
        1. Farm Field Trip Project – successfully awarded
        2. Open grant opportunities

        a. Healthy Tots Wellness Grant – info session June 27th; deadline is August 5; learn more: https://opgs.dc.gov/publication/fy-2020-healthy-tots-wellness-grant

        b. Healthy Schools Act – School Garden Grant – open June 21st; info sessions later this month; learn more https://opgs.dc.gov/publication/fy-2020-school-garden-grant

    ii. Northeast Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education (SARE) Program – due June 25

        1. https://www.northeastsare.org/Grants/Get-a-Grant

        2. Research and Education

        3. Professional Development

        4. Research for Novel Approaches in Sustainable Agriculture

    iii. DSLBD's Robust Retail Citywide Grants (https://dslbd.dc.gov/node/1396036) (Kate and Virginia Marie)

        1. Grant supports existing DC-based retail businesses adapting their business model to meet changing customer demand

            a. Capacity of the Applicant Business

            b. Strength of the Business Redesign Plan

            c. Community Impact

            d. Creativity and Innovation

        2. Up to $10,000 for up to 40 projects

        3. Applications are rolling; final review date is June 15

        4. Also Grown in DC grants were awarded!

            a. The grant is focused on increasing opportunity for healthy food retail

            b. 2019 Awards to: FreshFarm for FoodPoints, Community Food Works for expanding farmers markets, Dreaming Out Loud for entrepreneur program

    iv. Upcoming DSLBD Grants

        1. Dream Grants for micro entrepreneurs -- $10,000 for 30/50 businesses; more info to come soon

  f. Community Advocates Update – Winnie Huston

    i. Second Community Meal with FPC – focused on information to the community

    ii. Third community meal in the fall – focus on the partnership and FPC

    iii. Community Advocates Toni Lawson and Pumpkin Dicks were in attendance; Community Advocates continue to engage with the working groups

    iv. Advocates are working on different things over the summer – engaging the community around GFPP engagement; attending Community Grocery Co-op and actively participating in meetings; starting for tenant association in senior building, skill building for the advocates; and DC Greens will be opening a farm at Oxen Run – hope to have community picnic sometime this summer, looking to build an intergenerational community hub in addition to a great garden

    v. DC Greens and Lyft's pilot program – extend the program through the end of the year and will double the number of seniors participating (100 seniors) and American Heart Association is covering the dollars -- $3 for the round trip

6. Announcements

  a. Fresh Food Factory Opening!!

    i. Fresh food retail opened in Anacostia Arts Center in Ward 8

ii. Market is open Tuesday - Friday (11am - 5:30pm) and Saturday - Sunday 11am - 4pm). They accept cash, credit, Venmo and CashApp. Soon they will accept EBT.

iii. Learn more: https://www.yelp.com/biz/the-fresh-food-factory-market-washington

b. Ward Infinity Town Hall on June 27

    i. June 27, 2019, 6:00-8:30pm at R.I.S.E. Demonstration Center

    ii. Presentations on projects by Ward 7 and 8 residents addressing food access, housing, and health literacy

    iii. Learn more: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sibley-memorial-hospital-ward-infinity-town-hall-meeting-tickets-61183916742?aff=erelexpmlt

c. Lidl at Skyland Town Center!!

    i. First Lidl in the District and will be 30,000 sq ft in Skyland Town Center on Alabama Ave

    ii. DMPED worked really hard to get a healthy food retailer at the site

    iii. Learn more: https://www.bizjournals.com/washington/news/2019/05/19/skyland-town-center-finally-lands-its-grocery.html

d. Veggie City DC Popup Farmers Markets

    i. Bring fresh fruits and vegetables to food deserts, as well as live performances, nutrition workshops, yoga

    ii. Runs every Friday at 7 pm in Marvin Gaye Rec Center

    iii. Learn more: https://richcapitalconcepts.org/veggiecity-dc

e. Next public meeting: Wednesday, August 7th, 6-7:30 pm; location TBA

f. Next working group meetings & locations – updated at https://dcfoodpolicy.org/meetings/