

# Meeting Notes

Douglas County Food Policy Council

Monday, December 21, 2009

7-8:30 pm

Fire Station #5- 1911 Stewart Avenue

**Attendees:** Boog Highberger, Lori McMinn, Greg Shipe, Barbara Clark, Rita York, Jim Fischer, Bill Wood, Daniel Poull, Dan Nagengast, Tom Buller, Trudy Rice, Nicole Tichenor, Scott Allegrucci. (13 total, constituting both a majority and a quorum). Staff: Emily Jackson. Guest: Simran Sethi.

## Welcome

S. Allegrucci- Intend to make meeting notes public, so need to make sure that what you say is accurately represented.

## New Business

- KU Journalism project/partnership proposal:
  - Guest Simran Sethi presented a partnership opportunity in the form of an ongoing project for the spring semester involving her Media & the Environment journalism class at Kansas University.
  - Class starts the third week of January and concludes the second week of May. Previous projects have been conducted with the Kansas City Center for Urban Agriculture and the Climate and Energy Project of The Land Institute. After discussions with FPC member B. Clark and Commissioner Nancy Thellman, Simran delayed engaging another partner organization for the project, hoping the FPC would be willing to partner.
  - The fundamental outcome of the project would be content creation for the FPC focusing on priorities as directed and determined by the FPC. In discussion, FPC members identified the following possible priorities for the proposed project to focus on:
    - "What is a food system?" narrative to help frame FPC work and public communication
    - Identifying community partnerships for the FPC's work
    - Preliminary discussions with food system partners that could lead to more specific and comprehensive food system mapping
    - Engaging local leadership to identify priority issues that a local food system could address
  - Motion was made (D.Poull) and seconded (B.Highberger) to create a project proposal for the class.
  - Simran requires the scope of work to be determined not later than the week of 1/4/10. FPC Exec Committee members present (Allegrucci, Nagengast, Rice, Tichenor) agree to develop a draft proposal for consideration by the entire FPC at the next meeting.

### **Review of 12/7 meeting**

- Approved 12/7 meeting notes - B. Wood (motion), J. Fischer (second)
- Confirmed all nominations to the Executive Committee. In particular, T. Rice (who was nominated at the 12/7 meeting in absentia) agreed to accept the nomination to the Exec Committee
- Confirmed all nominations to the Governance Subcommittee. Indeed, this sub committee had already produced work product for the full FPC to review.

### **Council governing structure and bylaws**

- S. Allegrucci- there are 25 slots on council, 24 are filled. There is an interest that the producer community be represented more broadly than it already is. Need to have larger, more conventional growers on council so that those interests are clearly represented when proposals are made to Commission. There is wisdom in assigning an additional slot to a more conventional grower, and the idea is to assign 25<sup>th</sup> unfilled slot to a conventional grower/producer.
- Received and reviewed recommendations from Governance Subcommittee.
  - B. Highberger- draft proposed bylaws are based off of Knoxville's (TN) documents, as well as input from a FPC in Santa Fe (NM) and a few others.

### **Council adjourned for a break for 5 minutes**

- Discussion ensued. Several changes or suggestions were made, including:
- Article I
  - Consideration of the addition of "Local" prior to the title "Food Policy Council". This was generally deemed to be too limiting and not necessary given county governance and reporting.
- Article II
  - Addition of "Education/Public Awareness" amended/added (as #7) to the goals of the FPC under Article II.
- Article III
  - Section 1 - substitute "research at higher educational institutions" for the more specific and limiting "KU and K State."
- Article III
  - Section 6, sub b - amend the number of agricultural producers on the FPC from three to four
  - Same as above, sub c - correct "three representatives of retail food outlets" to "four"
  - Same as above, sub d - change "institutional food producers" to "institutional food providers"
  - Some discussion regarding desire of the FPC to keep as open as

- possible to the best fit regarding school/educational participation
  - Note that there were two “g” subsections as printed
  - Change City/County Sustainability Coordinator from a sitting member of the FPC, to staff liason for the FPC
- Article IV
  - Section 1 - some discussion regarding the possible need for a Secretary in addition to the Chair and Vice-Chair. Generally agreed that once the Sustainability Coordinator is hired, that person can perform the critical functions of a Secretary, but will stay responsive to this potential need. No sense of a need for a Treasurer under the current structure and guidelines for the FPC, but acknowledgement that that could change.
  - This led to some discussion centered on suggestions to keep the FPC as an advisory body to the County, but also as an entity to provide guidance and leadership to existing organizations and entities that can deliver positive outcomes in line with FPC priorities and goals, regarding the local food system - rather than attempting to take on tasks that are already identified by other organizations. To be revisited, if and as priorities are identified that are not being addressed by other partners.
- Article VII
  - Add “and as approved by the County Commission” to the end of the first sentence.
- Further suggestions:
  - Question of whether or not other councils have the experience/authority to write grants. Does Council need to address/reference money in bylaws? Does Council have authority to apply for funds, or would it need the approval of the County Commission? Emily stated that since this is an advisory body, the Council should expect to take any grant proposals before the County Commission, regardless of whether or not applaction process called for approval by the governing body.
  - Codify or clarify in the bylaws that the FPC and all members serve at the pleasure of the County Commission.
  - Stipulate the terms by which the public may become engaged in the work of the FPC. In general, there was agreement that this is necessary, but that it could follow and be added to the bylaws once the FPC clearly determines priorities, goals, and mission. In the meantime, there was agreement that the public is always welcome to attend meetings and would be introduced and called upon for comment (if they desire) at the conclusion of the key agenda items for each meeting.
  - Some discussion regarding whether or the degree to which the County Commission must or wants to approve the FPC meeting

agenda prior to each meeting.

- Inclusion of Haskell Indian Nations University in the work of the FPC?
- Acknowledged and agreed with the proposal (as put forward in the draft bylaws) to add one more producer rep to the FPC roster. In accordance with Commissioner Florey's recommendation, it is agreed that the initial rep to the fourth producer position should represent larger and more conventional production practices. Chair asks members to submit names for review by the full FPC and the County Commission.
- Brief Review of initial FPC priorities
  - Governance and by-laws
  - Mapping/identifying our food system
  - Opportunities for cooperation and collaboration
  - FPC mission, priorities, and targets
  - Models/best practices/mentors/resources

### **Upcoming conferences and meetings of interest**

Reminder to share information regarding upcoming conferences and meetings of interest, as well as research and other information.

### **Meeting schedule and topics for discussion at next meeting**

- Next meeting set for 1/4/2010, same time and place.
- R. York- interested in 'sinking teeth into' goals/priorities of the Council
- Scott tasked Council members with ranking Council priorities from their perspectives for discussion at next meeting.
- Priority actions:
  - Consider KU project proposal and recommend moving forward (or not)
  - Review revised bylaws and take action
  - Receive nominations for fourth agricultural producer rep to the FPC for consideration by the County Commission
  - Discuss ranking of FPC priorities

### **Adjourn**