

Detroit Food Policy Council – December 14th

5:30 – 7:00 pm

In attendance: Malik Yakini, Kami Pothukuchi, Dan Carmody, Charles Walker, Patrick Crouch, Phil Jones, Charity Hicks, Dewayne Wells, Pam Weinstein, Kathryn Underwood, Minsu Longiaru, Bill Ridella, Ashley Atkinson, Gail Carr (proxy for Taja Sevelle)

Guest: Bill Hickey, Billie Hickey, Tara Kingsbury, Jess Daniel, Shane Bernardo, Annette Stevens

Minutes

- Minutes reviewed and approved with corrections.

Food System Workforce Development Information Collection

- Minsu introduce and circulated a food system workforce table she created to help inform the Detroit Food System Report and requested that Council members fill in any missing organizations or programs.

Undoing Racism in Detroit Food System Proposal for Collaboration

- Shane Bernardo and Billie Hickey from Undoing Racism in Detroit Food System group summarized the purpose and work of their group.
- Our guests outlined some benefits for them to collaborate with the DFPC including helping to get the message out, sharing meeting space, fiduciary support, and to add credibility to the work by connection to an official organization. They also noted some benefits for us to collaborate with them including adding credibility to DFPC and providing guidance for policy development around race and justice issues.
- Question: Phil – Would like to meet with group to discuss training opportunities, particularly for the Powering Up the Food System Event.
- Question: Charity – Can group be made into a task force or be included into race and economic justice taskforce of the DFPC?
- Question: Kathryn – What is the Food Justice Taskforce working on? Charity – Sees both being included as a part of the DFPC. It might be good to hear a similar summary and request from the Food Justice Taskforce.
- Question: Patrick – Have you considered drawbacks of collaboration including loss of autonomy? Billie – needs to be discussed.
 - **Action Item: We will explore what collaboration might look like between the groups, the DFPC executive committee and representative from Undoing Racism in Detroit Food System group will meet to discuss next steps.**

MSU Food Distribution Conference

- Jess Daniel spoke about “Making Good Food Work” conference. The planning committee is soliciting 10-15 teams from around the country to propose project or issue idea and join up with participants to work on developing project or issue plan over course of 3-day conference. Copies of the application were distributed.
- Question: Charity – is anyone from Detroit on planning team? Response: Jess – no. Charity – there are too many people capitalizing on Detroit without Detroiters participating in planning

and implementation. Jess - The conference is structured as a national conference but we'd be happy to have a representative from Detroit on the planning committee.

- Question: Kami – Who are the conference sponsors? Jess - USDA, CS Mott Group and UC Davis, Wallace Center, University of WI.
- Question: Malik - Are you asking for DFPC endorsement or for someone from DFPC to participate on planning team? Jess – Both. Patrick – What does endorsement mean? Kami – Endorsement should come in a formal letter. Jess – Will coordinate letter.

ICIC Proposal

- Kami circulated an RFP from ICIC who received a grant to develop the inner city food cluster pilot project including research and development for a food cluster in Detroit. Margaret Garry has approached individuals to endorse her as a lead for team working in Detroit. Kami wanted to make sure people knew about the grant and Margaret's role.

Report on Search for DFPC Director

- Malik – Executive committee is recommending to Council that Cheryl Simon be hired as coordinator (also suggesting changing title to Director). She is fine with a one-year commitment. She can commit to 30 hours per week. She already has benefits and wouldn't need benefits, which would open up resources to hire a Program Coordinator. The Executive Committee is recommending that we offer a salary of \$45,000 pending approval of entire council.
- Question: Phil – Do we still need benefit package information and quotes? Maiik – No, but keep the information.
- Comment: Charity – Feels like we're settling. Patrick – We are settling but looking back at demands of job description we'd be settling with any candidate.
- Comment: Phil - Hiring committee talked about having her come in and get us going, there is a great deal of value in getting our ducks in a row. We have the option of finding the perfect candidate in the near future.
- Comment: Kami – She is very strong in the abilities that she brings; spoke with 4 reference that all spoke highly about her ability to get work done, community and policy connection, as well as work with other.
- Question: Charity – What our expectations of Cheryl? Malik – the Ex committee is putting together a plan of work that will guide her work.
- Comment: Pam – Knows Cheryl as a community member. A year is a very short time. The value that she brings has enormous value for us.
- Comment: Dan – This arrangement not unusual. His predecessor hired for a short time to get organization up and running.
- Comment: Phil – Supports hiring Cheryl. She was very professional throughout the interview process including submitting her application materials properly. Organization and professionalism is a very big part of what we need here.
- Comment: Gail – Strong community ties might make up for limited availability.
 - **Action Item: Change the position title from Coordinator to Executive Director**
Comment: Charity – Title is important changing at this point would be unfair for those that would have applied had the title been executive committee. Kami – The job description hasn't changed and the title of Executive Director will carry more weight. Pam – Maybe leave as is for now with a review and change of job title in 6 months. Phil – Recommend leave title as-is. **Consensus to leave title as is: DFPC Coordinator.**
 - **Action Item: Hire Cheryl Simon as the DFPC Coordinator.**

Question: Kathryn – what will the blow back from other candidates/community be?
 Charity – There is a perception that everything in Detroit led by white women. Phil – As a hiring committee member I am comfortable with what we did. I'm not extremely happy with the end result because of the pool of candidates but with complete honesty, having been a part of the process, I am comfortable with the measures of fairness that were taken. Minsu – What do we need right now? Are we looking for organizational development or grassroots mobilization? Do the strengths of Council Members pair well with the Coordinator? Kami – We are talking about having a Program Manager coming in sooner. Patrick – Minsu's point is a good one. Coordinator can help facilitate a discussion about the Council's vision and values. Charles – If we agree the process has been good and fair we shouldn't look back. Charity – Society and institutions are perpetuating status quo. Kami – We did our best, we recognize unlevel playing fields and want to correct them and we can say we did it with the most integrity possible. Minsu – Make a case for urgency. Kami – Body meeting for one year, hiring process taken 6 months, haven't even started on the work of the Council, all of those working on committees running ragged and it should be the responsibility of Coordinator. DeWayne- Consensus is important; I can support the executive committee's recommendation. Patrick – Coordinating a vision and value discussion needs to be a part of Coordinator workplan. Dan – I have trust in the Executive Committee and support recommendation. Charity – wholeheartedly supports work of Executive Committee.
Consensus to accept recommendation of Executive Committee to hire Cheryl Simon.

Comment: Malik – Thank you to hiring committee whose process was exemplary, especially Phil.

Committee Reports

Food System Report: (Kami)

- Kami distributed four documents.
 - **Action Item: All members of DFPC Please submit any MI Citizen columns (with corresponding date and photos) that don't appear on the list of Michigan Citizen 2010 Articles to Kami as soon as possible. Also send a copy of future columns and supporting documents to Kami as well.**
 - **Action Item: Please review the map of Detroit Grocery Stores and get the name and location of any open store not appearing on list to Kami as soon as possible.**
Action Item: Review the alternative Food System Table and help fill in and complete information on the chart.
Action Item: Review Detroit Food System Report Outline and see if anything is missing.
- All feedback needs to be back to Kami by end of December. Kami sent all documents in an email earlier this week. Comment: Phil – is there any way food culture (what happens when food is brought into home) can be incorporated into the report? Kami – I'm not doing any original research at this time, maybe this can be incorporated in next years report. Comment: Charity – I can help. Kami – we need help ground truthing. Bill- Department staff may be able to help.

Powering up the Local Food System and Policy Committee Updates tabled for special meeting scheduled for December 21, 2010.

Government Report-Backs

Mayor's Office

- Written report submitted by Gail Carr summarizing programs and services of the Department of Health and Wellness. Question: Charity – Do we have a response from Mayor's Office to question by Lila from last month's? Gail - No.

City Council Report Back (Kathryn Underwood)

- Written report submitted by Kathryn Underwood. City Planning Commission is still working on understanding and addressing issues related to the Right-to-Farm Act for the City.

Department of Health and Wellness (Bill Riddell)

- Bill reported that Department received a \$130,000 grant for nutrition education and has hired former WIC mothers as nutrition educators.
- More sites being added for afterschool programs. (flyer distributed)
- Department doing a holiday meal on 12/25/10. If you are interested in volunteering contact Partnership for a Drug Free Detroit. (flyer distributed)
- Building Healthy Communities and Childhood Obesity looking for nutritionist to hire to do cooking demonstrations.

Next Meeting

- Tuesday, December 21^h, 5:30 pm, Eastern Market Corporation (2964 Russell Street)

Meeting Adjourned 8:05PM