

Detroit Food Policy Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 15, 2010 – 5:30 PM
Golightly Career and Technical Center Agriscience, Belle Isle

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by Chair Malik Yakini.

1. Welcome and introductions

Members in attendance: Ashley Atkinson, Marilyn NeferRa Barber, Dan Carmody, Patrick Crouch, Phil Jones, Kami Pothukuchi, Taja Sevelle (phone), Kathryn Underwood, DeWayne Wells, Pam Weinstein, Malik Yakini

Members absent: Joe Gappy, Ricardo Guzman, Charity Hicks, Minsu Longiaru, Anntinette McCain, William Ridella, Charles Simmons, Olga Stella, Charles Walker, Dwight Wilson

Public in attendance: Rod Toneye, Deborah Walker

2. Approval of minutes from May 11, 2010 meeting

Member Pam Weinstein, who was taking notes at Ashley's request, read aloud the minutes from the last meeting on May 11, 2010. Several corrections were noted, including:

--the spelling of Lila Cabbil's name is "Lila," not "Lita"

--at the top of page 2, add the phrase "for advice" at the end of the first sentence about obtaining help from the Capuchin HR person

--in the 7th paragraph, the correct name of the committee is "Food System Asset Committee."

--in the 10th paragraph, regarding Charity Hicks' report on the Food & Community conference, revise to read "...and offered her opinion that big ag is co-opting other food policy councils."

--in the 11th paragraph, revise to include the full name of the feast, "Garden Resource Program Summer Food Fest."

3. Visions Work with Food and Fitness

Chair Yakini introduced Deborah Walker of Visions, Inc., an organization hired by the Kellogg Foundation to work with the Food and Fitness Collaborative on issues of multi-cultural inclusion, especially issues of race, gender, and class. Ms. Walker spoke of her work with Kellogg over the past 10 years to encourage community engagement and grassroots participation, and specifically her work with DeWayne Wells and Ashley Atkinson on the Food and Fitness Collaborative. Member Wells invited all present to attend a session in the afternoon on Wednesday, June 16 at Gleaners entitled "Building Detroit's Food and Fitness Movement from a Community Engagement Perspective."

4. MICHIGAN CITIZEN Series

Chair Yakini invited those present to comment on the ongoing series of articles, "Food is Life," authored each week by a different Policy Council member. Members agreed the series was going well, and Chair Yakini agreed to check with the MICHIGAN CITIZEN to see if it would be possible re-publish these articles in other publications like *Model D* and *Metro Times*. It was also suggested that we request permission to submit articles that are a little longer than the current 500-word limit.

Chair Yakini asked if anyone present who had not yet written an article would like to do so. No one responded, so he suggested that we start over, rotating the assignment in the same order as previously. Member Kathryn Underwood requested to be taken out of the rotation until such time as the hearings on urban agriculture ordinances begin.

Others suggested that there are specific events coming up that should be addressed by our series. Here are the dates and specific events noted:

July 6 – Garden Resource Program Garden Tour – Ashley Atkinson to write about the proliferation of gardens in Detroit
 July 13
 July 20
 July 27
 Aug. 3 – Launch of Double-Up Food Bucks – Dan Carmody to write this one
 Aug. 10
 Aug. 17
 Aug. 24
 Aug. 31 – Labor Day holiday – Minsu Longiaru to write this one

It was agreed the Chair Yakini would fill in the unassigned dates above based on the previous rotation, and that these minutes would be distributed to all members as quickly as possible, so that all can take note of their next assignments.

5. **Retreat/Social Event**

Phil Jones reported on plans for the upcoming Detroit Food Policy Retreat, to be held on Tuesday, June 29 from 5:30 – 10:30 PM at Eastern Market. He read to the group his proposed agenda. Member Jones requested that Charity Hicks and Taja Sevelle design a closing ceremony or segment to close out the retreat. Member Sevelle said she may be in town next week and Member Jones will send her additional information.

Member Jones also shared his proposed menu, to much applause from the group. Various suggestions to include sangria were bandied about, but the group sobered up and agreed on BYO for the event.

Member Jones has developed a preliminary budget of \$312, which includes food for 25-30 people and a fee for hiring servers to assist. Chair Yakini suggested we authorize a budget of \$400, in case other costs arise. Member Wells will make the arrangements to provide the funds to Member Jones in advance of purchases.

Discussion then focused on two points: (1) who should be invited or included at this event and (2) should the socializing come first, followed by some business, or should the business be conducted first, followed by the socializing?

The matter of who should be invited oscillated between the impulse to be broadly inclusive (invite the public and all the members of Detroit City Council, for example) and the impulse to limit attendance to members of the Food Policy Council, the two facilitators, and Gloria Rivera. Members Crouch and Pothukuchi reminded the group that the goals of the retreat are to allow Food Policy Council members to get to know and trust each other, so the more limited view prevailed.

The question of how to organize the socializing vs. business elements affirmed Member

Jones' original proposal to socialize first, conduct business (planning broad goals for the annual conference) second.

6. Coordinator Search and Selection Committee Report

Member Crouch reported that this committee has not yet met, but he did determine that the Capuchin's HR person is willing to assist the committee. The committee members present established a date to meet – July 2 at 3 PM at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen/Earthworks. Member Pothukuchi asked if there is a timeline for this committee's work; Member Crouch explained that establishing a timeline is one of this committee's tasks.

7. Financial Procedures Committee Report

Committee Chair Charles Walker was not present, so committee member Ashley Atkinson reported that the committee has met and discussed a number of items, including the advisability of the Policy Council's having a debit card, getting a federal EIN number, completing the State of Michigan Articles of Incorporation, and establishing a permanent address. It was agreed by the group that Eastern Market will serve as the permanent address for the DFPC. Member Atkinson believes this committee is close to concluding its work, with only one more meeting necessary.

8. Food Asset Mapping Committee Report

Committee Chair Pothukuchi reported that the work of her committee has been on hold as she awaits feedback from her fellow committee members on a number of issues. While awaiting this essential feedback, Pothukuchi has developed a suggested outline for the asset-mapping project: background, overview of Detroit's conventional food system, and detailed examination of Detroit's alternative food systems. Pothukuchi stressed that she needs feedback right away, in order to be able to complete the work of this committee this summer.

9. Policy Implementation Committee Report

Committee members Wells and Carmody were present and reported that they hope to have a draft completed by the next DFPC meeting in July.

At this point, Member Pothukuchi asked how the work of the committees relates to the work of the Policy Council as a whole. Should she, for example, share her draft outline with the entire group, even though she has not yet heard any comments from her fellow committee members. Member Atkinson suggested that we set dates for at least 4 future DFPC meetings, so that committees will have more of a framework to target timelines.

Chair Yakini suggested that we put this item on our next agenda—how to involve the public in our discussions even as we develop our own procedures and policies.

Member Underwood asked that we add a standing item to our agenda, to allow her to report on the work of the Planning Commission's Urban Agriculture Work Group. Chair Yakini pointed out that we would also need to include the point of view of the Mayor's office as well. Member Sevelle agreed she could readily provide that point of view.

10. Next Meeting

Chair Yakini inquired if continuing to meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month was acceptable to everyone. All agreed, with Member Sevelle pointing out that beginning next year in March, that schedule would no longer be feasible for her.

The group agreed to meet on Tuesday, July 13 and Tuesday, August 10, with minutes to be sent out promptly to all.

11. Public Comments

Chair Yakini inquired three times if there were any public comments; hearing none, he proceeded with the agenda.

12. Announcements

Member Pothukuchi reminded all to attend her SEED Wayne Farmers' Markets on Wednesday and Thursday.

Member Wells said that tomorrow there was a United Way Town Hall meeting on hunger from 6-8 pm at St. Luke AME Church in Highland Park. He also detailed the showings of FOOD, INC. being sponsored by MOSES at the Redford Branch library next week, which include several speakers from the DFPC including Chair Yakini and Members Pothukuchi and Wells, as well as Fair Food Network Program Coordinator Meredith Freeman.

Member Crouch reminded all present of the US Social Forum coming to town next week, especially noting the programs on Food Justice to be held on Wednesday, and the speakers on urban agriculture on Thursday, at MOCAD.

Member Barber reminded all present of the "What's for dinner?" series at the Detroit Public Library, this Saturday at 1 PM, featuring a talk on 'Gardening as Resistance.'

Citizen-in-attendance Rod Toney reminded all of Dr. Trent's event Saturday on Men's Health.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Weinstein